

Magazine

The old devils
Tales of old men with young wives and new children

JULY 1996

Weekend

Weekend

The egg snatchers
One man's battle to protect the nests of Britain's rare birds

THE INDEPENDENT

2.960

SATURDAY 13 APRIL 1996

50p (IR 65p)

'Britain is slowly changing hands'



ANDREW MARR



New friends: Tony Blair and President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office yesterday

Photograph: Gregg Newton/Reuters

In politics, talk of turning-points is a dangerous game, but during the past 48 hours the prospect for a Conservative election victory seems to have slipped from being merely unlikely to being barely thinkable. The Tories' hopes for a dramatic late revival seem desperately thin.

Their strategists like to say that as soon as the public believes the Conservatives can win the next election, then they can win the next election. The trouble is, the public don't, and are now likely to stay sceptical. John Major grins gamely on, almost heroic in his personal optimism. But in weeks like these he seems reminiscent of *Private Eye's* famously disastrous football manager, "The ash-faced Ron Kneé", while Tony Blair whooshes round America, playing Virtual Government.

The Staffordshire by-election doesn't, of itself, prove anything. By-elections are more like opinion polls than like general elections. They confront voters with a different question - not "which government do you choose?" but rather, "how cross are you feeling with the powers that be this morning?"

Kicking governments is thoroughly enjoyable. But a fundamentally different thing from picking them - the Tories won back every seat that they had lost this way between 1987 and 1992. But politics progresses by stories. Before Tamworth, the Tories were preparing a story about their regeneration in 1996 that will now have to be postponed.

They had been desperately

hoping for a by-election result good enough to be presented as some kind of turning point. And then this - a slap across the chops, kick in the bottom, a stinging rebuke.

Tory by-election defeats have become almost routine, but this weekend it feels as if Britain is slowly changing hands. Nor should sensible Tories take any pleasure in the shrinking of the Liberal Democrat vote. That too is a warning. If voters' readiness to switch tactically is passed on from by-elections to general elections, then the Government is looking at a much more serious defeat next year than ministers currently expect.

But the Tories' one-vote majority will further diminish the party's ability to shape events. In most important ways this has become a 'government condemned to passivity.'

Provocative legislation cannot be passed. The European Inter-Governmental Conference is a long, slow game of blocking and kicking into touch. The great economic recovery has become the Conservatives' *Godot*.

While in office, ministers are able to do relatively little with their formal power, in opposition Tony Blair manages to seem impressively busy for a man with no money to spend. The other half of this week's sto-

ry has been his remarkably life-like impersonation of a successful, old-time Conservative prime minister. Once, such people were easy to recognise. We knew them by their friends - the American presidents, the directors of international capital, the media tycoons. We knew them by their calm assumption of the moral leadership of the middle classes. We knew them by the ruthless professionalism of their political organisation. And we knew them above all because they claimed almost to be above politics, standing for the nation against the scheming of political extremists - in the

TURN TO PAGE 2

appealed across the classes and is a party that is capable therefore of uniting the country."

John Major yesterday came under pressure to move to the right to meet the challenge of Tony Blair's march on to the centre ground of British politics.

In the wake of Labour's crushing victory in Thursday's Staffordshire South East by-election, John Redwood, who challenged the Prime Minister for the Tory leadership last year, led Tory claims that the defeat required a change of direction, marked by big tax cuts.

But Mr Major insisted he would hold to a steady course: "I have been in politics long enough not to over-react to any by-election result. I am disappointed by last night's result but politics is not an easy ride. I am here to do what is right and stick with it."

Labour's Brian Jenkins took the seat with a near-record 22 per cent swing, reducing Mr Major's Commons majority to one. Speaking from the United States before a meeting with President Clinton, Mr Blair put the Conservatives on notice: "If an opportunity presents itself to remove this Government then it's not merely an opportunity, it is our duty as the Opposition to try and remove them," he said.

The Labour leader welcomed the result as a "stunning vindication of his eve-of-political declaration that Labour was now the party of the centre, as well as the left of centre. He said: "I think one of the things that last night's result shows is that New Labour is a new party of the centre ground, is a party that can

be elected on page 2

Buy The Independent today and get the Independent on Sunday for

See voucher on page 2

Why the style of the Seventies is back in fashion

Final chance to enter our story of the year competition and win £2,000

Denis, one of the best kept secrets of the Thatcher years

Deborah Warner: Why one of our best talents has turned her back on British theatre

How to create the perfect lawn - naturally

Slaughtered cattle to be pulped and buried

PAUL FIELD

Slaughterhouses will destroy up to 30,000 cattle a week in the proposed BSE cull with the beasts being dismembered to remove possible infected parts and the rest of the carcasses ground to a pulp and buried in landfill sites.

Under government plans, abattoirs would remove the head, spinal cord, intestines and spleen from the animal for incineration. The rest of the carcass, not considered to be at risk of BSE, would be reduced to a form of extremely fine mince meat by rendering plants and buried. The procedures are a means of getting around the chronic shortage of incineration facilities.

European agriculture officials talked late into the night to reach an agreement on the logistics of the disposal of older cows. The destruction could begin within a few weeks following the meeting of the beef management committee in Brussels. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said: "All UK beef on sale will continue to be from cattle under 30 months. Significant EU funds will be available to compensate farmers for the destruction of their older cattle."

The 30,000-a-week figure is double the number thought necessary under the Luxembourg agreement last week to keep all cattle older than 30

months out of the food chain. For around three months the Government will not be able to limit the destruction to 15,000 normally slaughtered every week at the end of their productive life owing to the backlog of up to 100,000 old cows and a further 100,000 younger animals more than 30 months old awaiting slaughter on farms.

A spokeswoman for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food confirmed the details of the proposals placed on the negotiating table in Brussels. She stressed that the only carcasses to be entirely incinerated would be confirmed or suspected BSE cases.

The nine incineration plants licensed to destroy cattle can cope with 3,000 carcasses a week.

However, officials were tight-lipped on the compensation package being considered.

Renderers, which specialise in processing animal waste, have already been told they are to receive £1.2m a year to make up for the loss of business in bonemeal for animal feed and beef products such as gelatin.

Slaughter houses have been offered a £53m package, which accounts for the charges levied by the Meat Hygiene Service for inspections every year.

But the abattoirs want compensation for unsaleable stocks worth more than £70m, at present in store as a result of the



Douglas Hogg: Thirty-month culling proposal to go ahead

collapse in the UK beef market. It is thought that up to 85,000 tons of beef are in abattoir chiller rooms, bonded warehouses at ports or in store on ships at sea.

Peter Scott, director of the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, representing 85 per cent of 450 slaughter houses in Britain, said that without compensation the majority will go under.

The federation has accepted the need for a rationalisation of the industry under which abattoirs and meat processing plants would be paid to go out of business, a move supported by the Meat and Livestock Commission.

Meanwhile, the federation yesterday said it would reject a European offer to buy up thou-

sands of tonnes of unwanted beef. The NFU called the lack of UK interest in the offer as astonishing and disappointing. Other European countries are selling thousands of tonnes of beef into storage.

The federation claimed it made no sense to take top-quality beef out of the system at this time. UK meat traders are selling into storage just 140 tonnes of unwanted beef because of the BSE crisis. The price agreed with the EU's beef management committee was £220 per 100 kilos.

Other countries jumped at the chance to guarantee a return on their beef in the midst of consumer doubts rather than take a gamble on a market upturn. France sold nearly 2,500 tonnes of beef while Germany is handing over more than 4,000 tonnes.

The decision marked the opening of the European beef stores for the first time in two years in the wake of the BSE scare. But the fact that so few British traders took up the offer suggests they still have confidence in prices and are hanging on.

Mr Scott said with more than half the beef supplies possibly being taken out of the system, the country will be short of beef: "Therefore it makes no sense at all to start taking the best quality beef away from the housewife and putting it into deep-freeze. It is not a boycott. It is simply not attractive."

Meanwhile, the federation yesterday said it would reject a European offer to buy up thou-

Israel pounds new targets in Lebanon

ROBERT FISK
Beirut

Israel's blitz on Lebanon began to turn into an international crisis last night after helicopters marauding over Beirut's southern suburbs opened fire on a Syrian anti-aircraft battery, killing a Syrian major and wounding eight of his men.

The incident is likely to have grave repercussions on the crumbling Middle East peace negotiations.

Even as the Israelis were bombing the capital, up to 50,000 Lebanese refugees - fleeing from their homes after a warning by Israel that their villages would be assaulted in the hunt for Hezbollah fighters - streamed towards Beirut.

Earlier in the day, Hezbollah guerrillas retaliated for Thursday's Israeli raids by launching more than 24 Katyusha rockets at northern Galilee, wounding five Israeli civilians at Kiryat Shmona; one of them, a woman, was critically injured when a missile exploded beside her car.

Within hours, the Israelis took their own counter-retaliation by shelling the village of Yohm

in the lower Bekaa Valley, killing four Lebanese civilians and wounding eight others, including two girls aged 10 and 11. Another eight wounded civilians hit by Israeli shellfire were brought to hospitals in Tyre.

In southern Lebanon, Israeli troops were reported to be preparing for a parachute drop onto the semi-abandoned villages north of their occupation zone while hundreds of Hezbollah guerrillas - the only Lebanese who were not known to have suffered any casualties yesterday - lay in hiding in the hilltop hamlets, waiting for Israeli troops to arrive if an airborne attack materialised.

In a grim warning earlier in the day, the Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the missile attack on Kiryat Shmona, adding that this was merely the first response to "the crimes of the enemy".

The Hezbollah's leader, Sayed Hassan Nasrallah, said that Hezbollah's main retaliation - which had not yet been visited upon the Israelis - would "astound the world".

Further reports, page 16

Join Labour today

Membership Card

Have a say in the future of Britain
0990 300 900

(National call rates apply. Calls should cost no more than 10p per minute.)

£15 Standard rate
 £5 Reduced rate: Student/unwaged/part-time/retired/
on a government training scheme please indicate
 £3 Registered rate: I am a levy-paying member of a
trade union affiliated to the Labour Party. I have
paid the political levy for the last 12 months.

I enclose an additional donation of £
(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)
Full name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Date of Birth _____

Please give your full postal address as it is used to determine your local party.
I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order, payable to 'The Labour Party'.
I accept the rules and constitution of The Labour Party

Signature _____ Date _____
Please return the entire form to:
The Labour Party, Room 408, FREEPOST,
John Smith House, 150 Islington Road,
London SE17 1BR. No stamp required

Labour

section
ONEBUSINESS 20.21 COMMENT 16.17 CROSSWORD 24 GAZETTE 18
LEADING ARTICLE 16 LETTERS 16 NEWS 2-13 OBITUARIES 18
SHARES 22 SPORT 23-28 UNIT TRUSTS 19 WEATHER 2section
TWOARTS 6,7 BOOKS 8-10 CHESS 27 COUNTRY 13
LISTINGS 26 MONEY 22-25 MOTORING 11 PROPERTY 21
SHOPPING 4,5 TRAVEL 14-19 TELEVISION & RADIO 27,28

Page 2

15



9 770951 946269

news

INDEPENDENT special offer
ON SUNDAY

Buy it half-price tomorrow and read ...
The return of natural birth control.
Zoë Heller on Andrew Neil's TV disaster
Peter Conrad meets Roddy Doyle

INDEPENDENT
ON SUNDAY

**tomorrow
for only 50p**

Reader's name _____
Address _____
WHOLESALE'S NAME _____ RETAILER'S BUSINESS _____

To the Reader:
Send this voucher to the management of a copy of the Independent on Sunday, 14 April 1996 and pay only 50p home delivery. Customers have until 12 May 1996 to present this voucher to your newsagent.

To the Wholesaler:
Send this voucher to the management of the Independent on Sunday, 14 April 1996 and pay only 50p home delivery. To claim a credit against next week's bill, forward, please send to: Wholesaler, Independent Ltd, 17 Great Eastern, London EC2A 3AS. Tel: 0171 253 0500. Ref: TOSSE

9 906480 100500

IN BRIEF**Nurse accused of attempted murder**

A nurse was accused of trying to murder a patient yesterday after an investigation into alleged ill-treatment at a psychiatric ward. Shaun Darrock, 21, was remanded in custody by Bolton magistrates charged with the attempted murder of William Wimard, 51, and ill-treatment of George Hunt, 86, at Bolton General Hospital.

The auxiliary nurse was arrested after an internal hospital inquiry. The results were given to police who launched their own investigation. A female nurse held for questioning was released on police bail.

Aids test all-clear

More than 1,000 people in Scotland re-tested for the Aids virus because test equipment was faulty but told their original results were accurate. Callers given the all-clear but concerned that their test results could be wrong jammed switchboards at Aids charities over the Easter weekend.

IRA torch victim

A grandfather is in intensive care after three masked men doused him with petrol and set him on fire. Attackers claiming to be members of the IRA put a hood over the head of Eamon Maguire, 58, at the back door of his home in Lurgan, Co Armagh. He is "stable" in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

Knife man sprayed

A woman driver being attacked by a knife man used WD40 oil spray to fend him off. She was trying to start her car after it broke down in north London on her way to work when a man stabbed her with a 9in knife. He fled when she sprayed his face. Police have not found the knife and say the man is dangerous.

Gun blunder

William Garnett, the 36-year-old solicitor brother of the Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, was fined £100 for failing to store a shotgun securely at the family holiday home on the Isle of Wight. The weapon was stolen during a burglary last November after being moved from its case following an earlier break-in. Newport magistrates were told.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	... 5040	Morocco	... 55.00
Belgium	... 5850	Italy	... 14.50
Cameroun	... 58300	Malta	... 25.25
Colombia	... 43120	Malta	... 43 cents
Denmark	... 1418	Norway	... N/A
Iraq	... 45	Portugal	... 54325
France	... 5114	Spain	... 58300
Germany	... 10415	Sweden	... Sk20
Greece	... 1450	Switzerland	... Sk4.00
Luxembourg	... 1160	USA	... \$3.00

OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS
An add. 12 weeks: Europe £11.16; Zone 1 (USA & East America, Africa and India) £24.82; Zone 2 (West and Australasia) £26.70. To order, please send cheque payable to Johnson's International Media Services Ltd to 43 Millhouse, London E14 9TR. Telephone 0171-538 0288. Credit cards welcome.

BEST ISSUES
Each issue of the Independent is available from: News Newspapers, telephone 0983 402455.

IRA terror suspect questioned by Garda

JASON BENNETTO and ALAN MURDOCH in Dublin

A 27-year-old man was being held in Dublin yesterday in connection with IRA activities in mainland Britain, including the recent London bombing campaign that shattered the ceasefire.

Anti-terrorist police are expected to apply for the man's extradition, although it is understood he is not being linked to the Docklands bomb in which two people died.

His arrest on Thursday morning followed a surveillance operation launched by the Irish Garda's Special Branch when the 17-month IRA ceasefire ended in February.

It is understood the incidents the man will be questioned over include the three Semtex "bag bombs" that exploded in central London, one of which accidentally detonated on a double-decker bus killing the IRA terrorist Edward O'Brien.

It is understood he was quizzed by the Garda yesterday about 1994 bombs in Brighton and Bognor Regis, which involved bicycle frames packed with explosives.

The man, from the north Dublin suburb of Finglas, was detained under the terms of Irish anti-terrorist legislation. This permits suspects to be held for up to 48 hours, meaning he has to be charged or released by this morning.

British anti-terrorist sources yesterday confirmed their interest in the suspect. Scotland Yard declined to confirm that they would make an early application for his extradition, but it is understood this will happen shortly.

The IRA brought the ceasefire to an abrupt end with a 1,000lb fertiliser bomb planted in a truck that was left at South



Art on the beach: Tony Kitchell, a local painter, working on a seascape on the Pembrokeshire coast. Mr Kitchell has been using crude oil spilled from the Sea Empress after it ran aground in February

Photograph: Rob Stratton

'It looks as if Britain is slowly changing hands'

FROM PAGE 1

days when to be "political" meant to be left-wing.

Blair claims every description for himself. He is confidential in the White House and worldly in Wall Street. He advocates Labour as good for investment.

By background and conviction,

he is a middle-class leader of a somewhat traditionalist stamp. His rhetoric on taxes and crime would have been regarded as right-wing during the Heath years.

When it comes to professionalism, Labour is now hard to beat. The Daily Telegraph now uses phrases like "carefully designed" and "meticulously planned" to complain about the smooth, content-free professionalism of new Labour.

The lesson of the past few days, however, is that any such team will be shamed almost certainly in government, not in opposition.

And finally, by ditching the word "left", Blair completes his journey to a politics which claims to be above faction, class or ideology, standing for the whole nation.

Once a left-wing party, then a party of the "Left-and-centre-left", then just of the centre-left, it is now apparently to be simply a party of the centre. That is pushing things further than anyone dreamed possible a few years ago.

It is easy to mock. These are the words Blair needs to do end to the Tory century. But they affect real Tories and old Socialists alike and because of the despair felt by some Labour MPs about it, Blair's revolution may yet end in tears.

The lesson of the past few days, however, is that any such team will be shamed almost certainly in government, not in opposition.

SE Staffs: Full result

B. Jenkins	1,540	Labour	1,540
D. Davis	1,245	Conservative	1,245
A. Smith	1,045	Liberal Democrat	1,045
Lord David Steel	500	Green Party	500
Magdalene	500	Independent	500
Sir John Spellar	500	Labour	500
Lord Donald Dewar	500	Labour	500
National Front	500	National Front	500
Mountford	500	SDP	500
Leslie Togher	500	Ulster Democratic Party	500
The Official	500	Official Socialist Party	500
Party BNP	500	New People's Party	500
Daily Mirror	500	People's Assembly	500
Sunday Express	500	People's Alliance	500
Life Magazine	500	People's Party	500
News (National Press)	500	SDP	500
Alan Whicker	500	Democracy	500
Restoration of the Monarchy	500	Monarchs	500
Parlour	500	Parliamentary Assembly	500
Labour	500	Parliamentary Labour Party	500
Save Croydon	500	Parliamentary Save Croydon	500
Turnout	500	Parliamentary Turnout	500
1992 BY-ELECTION RESULTS	500	PEELING	500
29,180; B. Jenkins (Lab)	500	PEELING (Lab)	500
21,988; J. Pennington (Lib)	500	Pennington (Lib)	500
Dem. 5,540; C. mag. 7,192	500	Turnout	500

Thursday's by-election in Staffordshire South East was the second-worst Conservative defeat by Labour since the war—exceeded only by that in Dudley West during Tony Blair's "honeymoon" as the new Labour leader in December 1994.

Labour's Brian Jenkins, leader of the local council, crushed Tony Jimmy James by a margin of more than two-to-one, achieving a 22 per cent swing against the Government.

The improvement in Tory performance since the 25 per cent swing in Dudley West was seized on early yesterday by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health. But with Peter Snow's famous House of Commons graphic showing a theoretical majority for Mr Blair of 453, the Tory line of defence had shifted by mid-day.

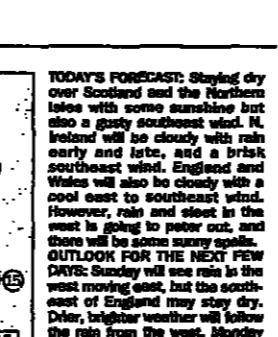
John Major led a chorus of ministers drawing attention to a similar swing in March 1991: "I remember many people consigned the Government to oblivion after the Ribble Valley by-election where the swing was the same." He went on to win the largest ever vote in the general election a year later, he said.

What he omitted to mention was that Ribble Valley's 25 per cent swing was to the Liberal Democrats, who are capable of bigger upsets as a traditional centre party. Nor did he mention that Labour won Monmouth in May 1991 on a 12 per cent swing—a mere half the size of Thursday's landslide in Staffordshire.

What will frighten Tory MPs in marginal seats about Thursday's vote was that it suggested the opinion polls might actually present an accurate picture of the electorate's mood. With Labour currently an average of 29 points ahead.

WORLD WEATHER

NOON FORECAST



TODAY'S FORECAST: Steady dry over Scotland and the Northern Isles, but also a gusty southwesterly wind. Northern Ireland, parts of Scotland, and a British Isles area will be cloudy with rain. Wales will also be cloudy with a cool east to southwesterly wind. The rain is going to peter out, and there will be some sunny spells.

OUTLOOK: The next few days

High U will drift south and decline. Low U will move south-east, while Low W tracks north-east.

Low W is drifting north-west, while Low N tracks north-east.

Low N will be associated with

rain from the west. Monday

will see rain in the northwest, and then rain will move southwards during Tuesday, but the rain will be lighter. Wednesday is likely to stay dry and warm. Wednesday promises sunshine but with rain in the southeast at night.

Friday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Saturday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Sunday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Monday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Tuesday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Wednesday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Thursday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Friday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Saturday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Sunday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Monday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Tuesday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Wednesday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Thursday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Friday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Saturday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Sunday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Monday will be another day of

sunshine and showers.

Tuesday will be another day of</

Son admits giving drug to let cancer mother die

IN BRIEF
Nurse accused of attempted murder
AIDS test all clear

Greater Manchester Police are investigating the death of an 80-year-old woman after a man said he gave her cancer-stricken mother a morphine overdose in a mercy killing.

Detectives have been called in by a coroner over the death in hospital of Alice Rowbottom after her son, Derek admitted administering two huge doses of the drug. Mr Rowbottom, 44, told PA News: "I was trying to put her out of her pain."

The father-of-two from Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, said that he had been unable to bear watching his widowed mother die slowly from liver cancer at North Manchester General Hospital. He told nursing staff what he had done after her death.

Mrs Rowbottom died on Wednesday after spending more than six weeks in hospital, unable to eat, drink or move without crying out in pain. Her son said he had pleaded with nursing staff to leave his mother alone. Mr Rowbottom, who was devoted to his mother, said he sat by her bedside every day. "One day I noticed there was a booster button on her diamorphine pump and I just pressed it until the syringe was empty. Then I said to one of the nurses: 'There's something wrong with this pump, and they gave her another one and I did the same again.'

A nurse spotted Mr Rowbottom administering the second dose and hospital security was called in. Mrs Rowbottom's morphine pump was replaced with a tamper-proof patch so that her son could administer no more drugs.

The hospital called in the coroner when she died. Mr Rowbottom said: "At least I know she was in no more pain. I loved my mother and I couldn't leave her like that. She wouldn't have left me."

He was angry that doctors, who he said seemed unable to treat his mother, were unwilling to let her rest in peace. "They didn't even seem to know what was wrong with her. She was admitted with gall stones and I only heard yesterday she was supposed to have had cancer," he claimed.

He said detectives from Greater Manchester CID had visited him at home and told him that there would be an inquest and an investigation. He added: "I don't regret what I did. She was in so much pain I just did the best I could for her."

Mr Rowbottom said his two grown-up sons and his wife fully supported his decision. He now hopes the inevitable publicity surrounding his case will help force a change in the law to end the suffering of those who wish to die. "If the law prevents you from helping someone that you dearly love rest in peace it just wants changing."

A spokesman for North Manchester Hospital Healthcare Trust said it was concerned at the allegations and would be setting up an internal inquiry.

Mr Rowbottom's disclosure came a day after Scotland's leading law officer, the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, said in Edinburgh that doctors in Scotland who stop treating coma patients officially regarded as incapable of recovery will not face criminal prosecution for murder or culpable homicide.

The hospital called in the

coroner when she died. Mr Rowbottom said: "At least I know she was in no more pain. I loved my mother and I couldn't leave her like that. She wouldn't have left me."

He was angry that doctors, who he said seemed unable to treat his mother, were unwilling to let her rest in peace. "They didn't even seem to know what was wrong with her. She was admitted with gall stones and I only heard yesterday she was supposed to have had cancer," he claimed.

He said detectives from Greater Manchester CID had visited him at home and told him that there would be an inquest and an investigation. He added: "I don't regret what I did. She was in so much pain I just did the best I could for her."

Mr Rowbottom said his two grown-up sons and his wife fully supported his decision. He now hopes the inevitable publicity surrounding his case will help force a change in the law to end the suffering of those who wish to die. "If the law prevents you from helping someone that you dearly love rest in peace it just wants changing."

A spokesman for North Manchester Hospital Healthcare Trust said it was concerned at the allegations and would be setting up an internal inquiry.

Mr Rowbottom's disclosure came a day after Scotland's leading law officer, the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadoon, said in Edinburgh that doctors in Scotland who stop treating coma patients officially regarded as incapable of recovery will not face criminal prosecution for murder or culpable homicide.

The super-rich: Unknown businessman enters wealth league

Souvenir king becomes Britain's newest billionaire

CHRIS BLACKHURST

A man who made his money wooing Japanese tourists to his theme restaurants and souvenir kiosks by hiring staff who spoke their language has become Britain's newest billionaire, taking him within reach of Britain's richest man, Hans Rausing, with £2.88bn.

Joseph Lewis is eighth in line, after Mr Rausing, the Swedish drinks packaging king - he runs the Tetra Pak empire - who lives in West Sussex. While Mr Rausing, 70, maintains a low profile, the secretive Mr Lewis, 59, leaves him standing. He holds court in Lyford Cay, the playground of the super-rich in Nassau, Bahamas, but is rarely seen in public and has never submitted to a press photograph.

In the past year he has emerged, through his Abel investment vehicle, as owner of a 29 per cent stake in Christie's, the London auction house. The City is bracing itself for a full takeover bid from Mr Lewis, who recently took the unusual step, for him, of hiring a financial public relations firm.

If he does make a play for Christie's, Mr Lewis may find his fortune barely dented. Some observers reckon he could be worth as much as £5bn. From



Braced for takeover bid: Christie's auction house, London

Top 10 places in the wealth league

1. Hans Rausing, Tetra Pak	£2.88bn
2. John and Peter Moores, oilseed and other food products	£2.52bn
3. The Duke of Westminster, landowner	£2.25bn
4. Sir John and Barbara Crichton-Stuart, banking and aviation	£1.65bn
5. Sir James Goldsmith, ceramics	£1.2bn
6. Sir John and Peter Moores, oilseed and other food	£1.2bn
7. Sir Stirling Moss, racing and leisure	£1.05bn
8. Sir Joseph Lewis, finance	£1.05bn
9. Sir Terence Rattigan, newspaper publishing	£1.07bn
10. Sir Michael Stedman, shipping	£1.07bn

leaving school and joining his father's restaurant business - they ran the Beefeater by the Tower of London, among others to which Japanese tourists flocked because of staff and signs in their own language - he has proved himself an astute player of the world's currency markets, making millions from taking shrewd positions and building up an almost legendary reputation among dealers.

The family firm was sold in 1979, for an undisclosed sum, and he became a tax exile. He

has some high-profile friends, notably John Francome, the former champion jockey, Michael Smurfit, the Irish paper tycoon and Robert Earl, founder of Planet Hollywood, but stays in the background. Maurice Barnfather, his newly-appointed PR man, said yesterday: "Mr Lewis is a private, quiet man who is not courting publicity and wishes to maintain a quiet family life."

Mr Lewis shares eighth spot in the Sunday Times list of Britain's Richest 500 people, published tomorrow, with the Hinduja brothers, Gopi and Sri, and Viscount Rothermere. The Hindujas trade in chemicals, oil, motor vehicles and telecommunications, mainly on the Indian sub-continent but internationally as well, from their base in London.

They could soon be joined by

Mr Lewis's friend, Mr Earl, who has seen his wealth shoot up from £80m to £350m in just one year, thanks to the world-wide success of Planet Hollywood and is well on his way to becoming Britain's first billionaire restaurateur.

Amis relives his year-bashing

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

The novelist Martin Amis is considering writing his first work of non-fiction - an account of his *annus horribilis*.

The autobiographical work, based on last year, would give his side of the story about twelve months in which he left his wife, and children, saw his famous father die and endured a barrage of bad publicity about his desire for a £500,000 advance on his most recent novel, *The Information*.

Speaking for the first time since he was "hung out to dry" in the gleeful row over his apparent greed and subsequent rift with his agent, Pat Kavanagh, and her husband, the novelist Julian Barnes, Amis also says he "still has no idea what all the fuss was about".

Kavanagh was Amis's agent

when he made the "idle remark" to her that he would like to spread it out," he says in a remarkably frank interview with Waterstone's magazine published this week.

The rift with Barnes, a close friend, was painful, he admits. "It wasn't in the contract. I felt like I lost control. I was hung out to dry. An idle remark about what we should ask for my novel became like a banner over my head and I was marching alone."

The story leaked out, gaining momentum from the remarks of novelist AS Byatt, who observed that writers should earn their advances and lamented the behaviour of the "strutting boys of the book world".

But Amis says he is still confused by the affair. "Was it because of my father? Was it just the money? But other writers get that kind of money; it's not so much for two books, written over several years - it's not a

huge income if you spread it out," he says in a remarkably frank interview with Waterstone's magazine published this week.

The rift with Barnes, a close friend, was painful, he admits. "It wasn't in the contract. I felt like I lost control. I was hung out to dry. An idle remark about what we should ask for my novel became like a banner over my head and I was marching alone."

The scandal over his decision to leave his wife and two children for the writer Isabel Fonseca also mystified Amis. "It seems very English to me. Everyone said I'd abandoned my children and was living in New York with an heiress, and I must say I sometimes wished I was. People said my affair with Isabel was a cliché - but excuse me, that's not how lives get lived, not my life anyway."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated *London Fields* to him and he read about 30 pages. He didn't get it ... But yeah, I minded when it was clear he just couldn't finish my novels - it was a generational kind of taste, I think."

Amis talks about the death of his novelist father Kingsley and admits he felt energised, as though the "great obstacle of the father" had gone and he was fulfilling his destiny to be in the forefront. "It feels very different without him - although I haven't worked out what the difference is, exactly," he says.

"There's a way in which it's liberating: I don't run things by him in my mind, don't ask myself what Dad would think of that, or hear his voice inside me saying impatiently, 'Crappy idea'."

"Dad was my ghostly sub-

editor. Although he didn't read my books, of course, though I read all of his, I dedicated <i



Walk on the wild side: Members of the Ramblers Association, who hold their annual meeting in Swansea, West Glamorgan, this weekend, braving the wind and rain yesterday to exercise their right to roam the hills and natural beauty of the Gower peninsula at Clyne Common

Photograph: Rob Stratton

BNFL fined over Sellafield worker's radiation dose

British Nuclear Fuels was fined £25,000 yesterday after admitting "serious and significant" failures in safety that left a worker at its Sellafield plant contaminated with radioactivity.

Carlisle Crown Court was told that the company's system of controlling the amount of contamination from plutonium to which a 53-year-old contractor was exposed while

working in its main fuel separation area had failed. BNFL was also ordered to pay £16,104 costs after pleading guilty to a breach of safety regulations.

Henry Globe QC, for the prosecution, said it was "fortunate" that plater James Martin had only received a relatively low dose of radioactivity as he worked to replace bolts on a ventilation duct without protective clothing in June 1994. A partly-legible work permit had failed to state that Mr Martin should have been wearing gloves and a mask.

And there were a series of other errors in the permit, made worse by an operation supervisor's failure to inspect the area before work started and a company health monitor who did not know she should have

been there at all times. A temporary drainage bottle with which Mr Martin came into contact had been rigged up on the duct to cope with a leak and had been left "incomplete, unmarked and insecure" for 18 months. Mr Globe said.

"Individually the failures were of differing importance. Collectively, though, they have produced a serious and significant failure to discharge the statutory duty owed by the defendants to Mr Martin."

After it was discovered that he had become contaminated, changing-room staff wrongly allowed him to put back on his radioactive clothing before going to the surgery in the Cumbrian plant, increasing the risk of contamination spreading.

Mr Martin panicked when a checking instrument had "gone off the scale" and suffered episodes of acute anxiety after the incident, Mr Globe said.

In a statement after the hearing BNFL said it recognised that compliance with safety procedures was not up to its "usually high standards". It added that "follow-up reviews and investigations have been designed to prevent a recurrence".

SAVE £120

Energy CENTRE

SALE NOW ON

UP TO £100 OFF SELECTED GAS FIRES

CANNON CARESS 2000
Normal price £499.99
Save £100
SALE PRICE £399.99
BUY NOW PAY JANUARY 1997 (APR 29.5%)

FLAVEL REGENT
Normal price £299.99
Save £20
SALE PRICE £179.99

FOCAL POINT CONVECTARME
Normal price £349.99
Save £50
SALE PRICE £299.99

STOVES REVUE PLUS (WHITE)
Normal price £309.99
Save £30
SALE PRICE £279.99

LEISURE LAUREAT 2
Normal price £449.99
Save £100
SALE PRICE £349.99

NEW WORLD CHORUS
Normal price £399.99
Save £60
SALE PRICE £299.99

ROYAL COZYFIRE HAMPSHIRE
• Highly reflective
• cool fire
• 1kW or 3kW
• of radiant
• fan heat
• remote control
Normal price £459.99
Save £60
SALE PRICE £399.99
BUY NOW PAY JANUARY 1997 (APR 29.5%)

UP TO £40 OFF SELECTED ELECTRIC FIRES
DIMPLEX WINDSCREEN FIREPLACE
Normal price £349.99
Save £40
SALE PRICE £329.99

WALL HEATER SAVE £50
VALOR TROPIC TREND
• 0.6kW heat output
• Available in brown or grey
Normal price £169.99
Save £50
SALE PRICE £119.99

UP TO £100 OFF SELECTED ELECTRIC COOKERS
CREDA CAPRI (BROWN)
Normal price £399.99
Save £100
SALE PRICE £299.99

BELLING COMPACT 215
Normal price £399.99
Save £100
SALE PRICE £299.99

CREDA COMMODORE
• 2 extra fast
• hot plates
• drop down
over door
Normal price £349.99
Save £100
SALE PRICE £249.99

SAVE £120
JR GLENLOMOND
Normal price £399.99
Save £120
SALE PRICE £179.99

UP TO £100 OFF SELECTED FIRE SUITES
SUNCREST MINIET
Normal price £549.99
Save £30
SALE PRICE £519.99

PARKINSON COWAN OVALION 60GLX (WHITE)
• Large conventional oven
• Full width grill
Normal price £199.99
Save £30
SALE PRICE £169.99

TRICITY BENDIX 8221
• Large conventional oven
• 3 hob burner sizes
• High speed grill
Normal price £699.99
Save £70
SALE PRICE £629.99

UP TO £100 OFF SELECTED ELECTRIC & GAS COOKERS
PANASONIC NN5455
Normal price £149.99
Save £10
SALE PRICE £139.99

GOLDSTAR MC5335T
Normal price £169.99
Save £10
SALE PRICE £159.99

FREE HOME DELIVERY
WITHIN MAINLAND UK (EXCLUDING
CASH AND CARRY ITEMS)

HELPFUL TRAINED
STAFF WHO KNOW ABOUT
OUR PRODUCTS

OVER 250 SHOPS
NATIONWIDE

0800 850 900 CALL FOR YOUR
NEAREST SHOP

British Gas Retail

All offers end 30th April 1996. All products subject to availability. Electrical products may not be available in all areas. All prices are supplied only. Installation and assembly is available for all home delivery. Free quote products supplied direct otherwise stated. *Buy Now Pay January 1997 is available on selected products. Subject to status. When you pay 5% deposit and sign a credit agreement with payment to be made by direct debit. Western quotations available on request from British Gas Retail. Free quote CV2496. Standard quote APR 15.12%. Typical Credit Expiry Date 1st November. Powercut gas fee. Credit price £369.99 (excluding delivery) but excluding assembly and installation. Deposit £16.50 and 36 monthly payments of £14.19. Total amount payable £378.55. APR 15.12%. Products may be available on LPG at an additional cost.

Privatisation row: Objectors mount fresh legal challenge

French win Brighton railway franchise

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

"slam door" coaches on the route.

Mr Salmon said the rolling stock would last until the end of the franchise and that replacing it would not be economic. The Health and Safety Executive had approved the decision, he said.

Mr Hurel confirmed that the company was likely to reduce job numbers, but said cutting jobs was not a goal in itself and there would be negotiations before decisions were taken.

The Government greeted the news as "an excellent deal for the taxpayer". While Labour said the sale was "knee deep in dogma and sleaze" and pointed out that the successful bidder was presently under investigation for fraud.

The news emerged as the Save our Railways pressure group announced a fresh challenge to rail privatisation.

The High Court action is being taken against Roger Salmon, the rail franchising director, to allow British Railways Board to bid for lines. In December, the organisation delayed the franchising process when it won a Court of Appeal ruling that Mr Salmon had not followed government instructions on minimum service levels to be provided by successful bidders.

At Network SouthCentral, Antoine Hurel, the vice-chairman of London and South Coast - the company formed by CGEA to run the network - promised that while there may be redundancies, services would improve. Mr Hurel said there would be faster and upgraded services between London and Brighton, new off-peak and Sunday trains in south London and improvements in punctuality. The network covers routes out of Victoria, Charing Cross, and London Bridge stations to Kent and Sussex.

He said the company was "comfortable" with the 600

"one of Europe's foremost private rail operators". He said the Network SouthCentral deal was "excellent" for the taxpayer and the travelling public. But Clare Short, Labour's transport spokeswoman, said the sale was "knee-deep in dogma and sleaze".

Drivers set for further pay rise

On top of the 20 per cent increase won by train drivers' leaders at Great Western, the company will also have to enter negotiations on an annual pay increase, it emerged yesterday, writes Barrie Clement.

The massive 20 per cent offer came out of productivity talks, but the company also faces a claim for a "substantial" pay increase as part of the normal wage round. Great Western is likely to end up paying a further 3 to 3.5 per cent - the "going rate" in much of industry.

The other 24 train operators face the same pressure from Aslef, the train drivers' union, which although bitterly opposed to privatisation, believes the process presents considerable opportunities to improve drivers' pay.

Operators will attempt to pay for increases through productivity, but the growing power of Aslef could eventually have implications for train fares.

Aslef strategists contend that it will now be possible to pick companies off one by one - an approach which was not possible under British Rail.

Union officials are in dis-

cussions with all the other companies - including freight operators - where the same productivity claim has been submitted. Aslef is insisting that all companies honour British Rail's commitment to reduce the working week from 39 to 37 hours by August.

Lew Adams, general secretary, said that the reduction in working time was not negotiable and warned of industrial action if any operator sought to ignore BR's pledge.

Mr Adams said there was no difficulty in dealing with a changing system in which most companies were still in the state sector, others were moving over and two had been privatised. "We are negotiating with whom we can and insisting on the April settlement date," he said.

"Clearly the outcomes will differ, but we are insisting that the old system in which a low basic was topped up by overtime and allowances is replaced with a pensionable salary."

At Great Western it is proposed that basic pay increases from £11,564 to £20,000. The offer is to be put to a ballot.

Graduates happy to go deeper into the red

Graduates are starting their working lives with increasingly bigger debts, according to research published today.

Six months after leaving university, last year's graduates owed an average of £2,920 - a rise of 31 per cent on the average £2,236 debt in 1994, the survey, commissioned by Barclays Bank, reveals.

Those successfully pursuing their chosen careers were willing to get deeper into debt. Graduates on the first rung of the career ladder owed an average £3,564 compared with unemployed graduates, who had £2,374 to pay back.

The survey, based on 961 graduates nationwide, also found that men tended to owe £1,000 more than women in 1993.

100% is 100%

JULY 10 1996

news

5

Düsseldorf disaster: Prosecutors focus on workmen in probe into fire which killed 16, including British soldier

Welders face charges over airport blaze

LOUISE JURY

German prosecutors may press criminal charges against welders believed to have started the fire at Düsseldorf airport which killed 16 people, including a British soldier named yesterday as Martin Smith.

But airport authorities are also under investigation after it emerged that firefighters were not called until half an hour after the blaze broke out, and some passengers complained there were no alarms.

Martin Smith, 22, was travelling home to Tamworth, Staffordshire, on leave from his German base in Münster where he served with the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards when he was caught in the blaze which engulfed the terminal in 15 minutes.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said he was single and had enlisted in 1992. "This is a sad death," he added.

Seven Germans, including a seven-year-old boy, six French people and two Italians also died. The German government ordered federal buildings to fly their flags at half-mast.

Two people were critically ill last night out of 62 taken to hos-

pital suffering from the effects of thick black smoke which filled the hall and sparked panic among 2,500 staff and travellers.

German prosecutors said they were considering criminal charges against maintenance workers. They believe welders inadvertently melted a bitumen sealant which dripped onto a false floor containing electrical wiring.

PVC-covered cables began to

burn within a minute, but flames spread like wildfire through cables in the ceiling and they appear to have been helpless to tackle it.

City firefighters were not called for nearly half an hour, said a spokesman, Wolfgang Rochr. When they discovered the seriousness of the blaze, they immediately issued an alert bringing in pumps from across the city. It was 4.25pm before the airport was fully evacuated

Terminal B suffered moderate damage and there were some problems in Terminal C.

More than 160,000 passengers who should have passed through the airport, Germany's second biggest, this weekend will be re-routed.

Last night, British safety experts and engineers said they hoped sensible precautions would prevent a similar disaster in this country.

John Oldman, London Fire Brigade's divisional commander covering Heathrow, said they had regular exercises to enable quick response to any fire call.

They were alerted whenever there was a report of fire, providing a minimum of two pumps within five minutes and a further appliance within another three. "We are called on each and every occasion," he said. Fire regulations in Britain stipulated fire-stopping measures to prevent flames rippling along cables as appears to have happened in Düsseldorf.

But one particular problem for airports was that not all passengers would understand announcements if they were panicking in an emergency.

"Nobody should be complacent. Clearly we will look very carefully to see if there are lessons to be learned from Düsseldorf," he said.

Peter Bressington, a fire engineer with Ove Arup engineers, said certain building features would create problems. People became affected more quickly by smoke in rooms with low ceilings, which are understood to have been a feature in Düsseldorf's 25-year-old airport. Finishing materials such as wood and plastic rather than steel and marble were also a danger.

Mr Bressington said his firm had also received reports from a member of its staff who was at the airport that the fire alarms were not working.

A spokeswoman for the British Airport Authority, which covers seven airports including Gatwick and Heathrow, said they had an "excellent safety record" and there were very strict rules to prevent a similar disaster here.



Firefighters inspect the burnt-out terminal at Düsseldorf. Photograph: Amd Wiegmann



Footprints from fleeing passengers, staff and firefighters on the soot-covered terminal floor at Düsseldorf after the fire that killed 16. Photograph: Edgar Schoepel

Change in law will allow 16-year-olds behind bar

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Sixteen and 17-year-olds could be serving alcohol in pubs by the end of the year under proposals drawn up by the Government. Ministers want to amend licensing laws so that school leavers can go straight into the pub trade instead of waiting until they are 18.

The big brewers have registered their strong support for the reform, arguing that restrictions imposed by the Licensing Act of 1964 mean they lose "young talent" to other retail outlets.

In a consultation paper, the Home Office has suggested that school leavers be allowed to serve behind bars, provided they were on approved "pub apprenticeship" schemes leading to National Vocational Qualifica-

tions. At the moment, under-18s are banned from working in the bars of licensed premises.

A spokeswoman for the Catholic Church yesterday said bishops opposed the idea because young bar staff would not only serve alcohol, they would be more likely "to end up drinking it". The spokeswoman said it would be better if young Britons were introduced to alcohol at a younger age as part of normal family life, as they are in France. However drinking in Britain was seen as the preserve of adults. "In this country, teenagers have to drink 18 pints of lager in order to prove themselves. We do not have a mature attitude to alcohol, so we think the law should stay as it is."

However, neither the Roman Catholic Church nor the Church of England were consulted by the Government.

The debt also includes those incurred while the couple were trading in partnership as MJM Property Developments.

A spokesman for Coopers & Lybrand, based in Maidstone, said: "Mr and Mrs Miller are a charming couple and I am not prepared to go into the amounts owed other than to say it is a rather large sum."

"There is a meeting with the creditors next week [at Bearsted, near Maidstone] and it is only right that we wait until then before going any deeper into the situation."

Mr Miller, who now lives in south-west London, was unavailable for comment yesterday.

They sold the property in December last year for £2m while trading under the name of Chilston Park Hotel - a name they changed recently to Waylen 1996.

But at the end of January this year the receivers Coopers & Lybrand were called in by Lloyds Bank to sort out mounting debts.

It is also understood that some smaller breweries have registered their opposition, partly on the grounds that they will not be able to offer apprenticeship schemes. They fear that the big brewers will have an unfair competitive advantage if they are able to take on young employees and pay them less.

The charity Alcohol Concern was involved in the consultation exercise and said it was "cautiously supportive" of the plan, provided there was strict supervision and that the effect of the change was monitored.

"The drinks trade as a whole has not got a magnificent record for training its employees, that's why we are emphasising the need for proper supervision."

Kim Parish, management development and training director at the Scottish and Newcastle brewery group is

urging ministers to press ahead with the change, insisting that it would ensure young bar staff were properly supervised.

"We would not put a 16-year-old in a position where there could be a potential problem. They would not be serving in pubs where large numbers of customers were drinking heavily," she said. Young trainees would be employed at family pubs or where the emphasis was on food.

Brewers point out that 16 and 17-year-olds already worked in pubs in Ireland, where there did not appear to be a problem.

The consultation period stipulated by the Home Office ended on 29 March and ministers are hoping to lay an order before parliament on 3 June.

The new regulation would then come into effect by the end of the year.

Antiques guide couple sunk by £2.9m debts

The couple behind the world-famous *Miller's Antiques Price Guide* have called in the receivers after their company incurred debts of more than £2.9m.

Martin and Judith Miller, who now live apart, made a fortune from sales of the guide, but now face personal losses of more than £2m.

Mrs Miller is the co-presenter with Ross Benson of the Channel 4 antiques programme, *For Love or Money*.

The couple-owned Chilston Park Hotel in Sandway near Maidstone, Kent, a 17th century hotel known for attracting the rich and famous. The Grade I listed building was under their management for 10 years.

They sold the property in December last year for £2m while trading under the name of Chilston Park Hotel - a name they changed recently to Waylen 1996.

But at the end of January this year the receivers Coopers & Lybrand were called in by Lloyds Bank to sort out mounting debts.

Woman ran down cheating husband

A woman who ran down her husband outside his mistress's home escaped jail yesterday.

Anne Marie Lenehan drove into her husband Joseph as he stood in her in the street, Manchester Crown Court was told.

Mr Lenehan was thrown into the air and hit his head on the ground, causing blood to seep into his brain. He was detained in hospital for over a month, but he and his wife are trying to save their marriage and she is expecting their fourth child in July.

That saved Lenehan, 30, from jail, said Assistant Recorder Nicholas Gilchrist as he gave her a suspended prison sentence of 18 months.

"This case well illustrates that a motor car is a potential lethal weapon, even bit as dangerous as a gun," the judge said. Lenehan had admitted causing grievous bodily harm.

Rowena Goode, for the prosecution, said the couple married in 1983 and had three children, Callum, nine, Laime, six, and Shannon, two.

But the marriage deteriorated and Mr Lenehan left the



Whenever you're ready to talk, we're ready to listen.

"If you're going through it, we'll go through it with you. The Samaritans

A Registered Charity

As a nation, we're famous for hiding our feelings. But the country with the stiffest upper lips also has one of the highest suicide rates in Europe.

If you find it hard to talk to those around you, perhaps you should consider talking to The Samaritans.

We won't push you to say more than you want to and we won't be offended if you hang up. Equally, we'll be happy for you to phone back later.

Our number's in the phone book, and every call is confidential.

If you're ready to talk, don't bottle it up any longer.

Bid to launch first gay TV channel

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

Britain will get its first gay and lesbian television channel next year, if an anonymous consortium of business men and women is successful in its licence application.

The Rainbow Television Network believes there is a lucrative market for "camp and kitsch" programming which will appeal not only to gay people, but those who are "gay-friendly".

The channel, believed to be planned for both cable and satellite, is the concept of an anonymous group of gay and straight business people who are all, according to a spokesman, very successful in their fields.

If their application for a 10-year licence is issued by the Independent Television Commission, the Rainbow Television Network hopes to start broadcasting next year between 6pm and 9pm.

Emphasis will be on entertainment programmes, both commissioned and bought-in, and music, fashion, travel, drama and film. There will be a substantial live element, but no pornography.

Mike Johnson, spokesman for the consortium, said: "Some of it will be very camp and some extremely kitsch, but it will also be informative. We want to bring in new presenters, but they don't have to be gay."

The Rainbow Television Network believes its channel will be able to exploit the power of the so-called "pink pound", already the target of several dedicated newspapers and magazines.

It estimates there are up to seven million gays and lesbians in Britain, who are not properly served by the terrestrial cable or satellite stations. The network is aiming for 250,000 subscribers in its first year.

"The gay community has the money. They rarely have children, go out more, go to the cinema, eat in restaurants and spend a lot on clothes," Mr Johnson said. "People are beginning to realise just how big gay spending power is."

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAX PONSYTHE

news

Criminal justice: Giving victims greater voice in punishment rejected by judge in continuing war of words with Home Secretary

Taylor renews attack against sentence plans

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

The country's most senior judge yesterday launched a fresh attack on the Home Secretary's handling of the criminal justice system when he warned against further unwelcome importations from the American legal system.

Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, cautioned against giving victims too loud a voice in the punishments and sentences handed out by the courts to their attackers. But he outlined his own proposals for informing courts of the effects on crime on the victims.

Re-opening the war of words between the judiciary and the Government over the latest plans to hand down tough new minimum sentences, Lord Taylor said the current fixation with sentencing as the key to the justice system was "a highly fashionable error". And he said that to talk of justice for victims in terms of sentencing was not only to look at the system "through the wrong end of the telescope", but also to ignore a major section of it.

But he accepted, in a speech to a Victim Support conference



Lord Taylor: Warning over American importations

used as a tool to impose unjustly harsh sentences and he rejected outright introducing the American system of victims making statements to the court.

He added later: "The notion

that if you sentence longer

and longer it's going to be better and better for the public is quite wrong."

The public has an interest in seeing that people are rehabilitated and, of course, they should be punished appropriately. But the idea that because a particular victim has suffered very severe injuries, let's say, there must be absolutely comparable injury or detention on the perpetrator I think is inappropriate."

Yesterday's criticism of government penal policy was, by Lord Taylor's recent standards, a muted affair. Last month he declared all-out war - accusing the Government of introducing a succession of ill-thought out, hasty and contradictory criminal justice legislation and warning of the dangers of undermining public confidence.

He suggested that police investigating crimes should make notes of the impact of the crime on the victim and this could be passed on to the court. But he warned that it should not be

overlooked.

Earlier this week, Judge Stephen Tumim, former chief inspector of prisons, added his voice to the mounting opposition

from nearly all practitioners within the criminal justice system. Even some senior police officers have broken ranks to say more should be invested in prevention rather than prison for criminals who are caught and convicted.

Lord Taylor won immediate support yesterday from penal reformers. Paul Cavadino, of the

Penal Affairs Consortium, warned that giving the victim too great a say could undermine justice. "It would be wrong for a court to pass a heavier sentence on the ground that the victim favoured severe punishment. Some victims are understandably vengeful, while others are extremely forgiving."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD TAYLOR WON IMMEDIATE SUPPORT YESTERDAY FROM PENAL REFORMERS. PAUL CAVADINO, OF THE

PENAL AFFAIRS CONSORTIUM, WARNED THAT GIVING THE VICTIM TOO GREAT A SAY COULD UNDERMINE JUSTICE.

"IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR A COURT TO PASS A HEAVIER SENTENCE ON THE GROUND THAT THE VICTIM FAVOURSED SEVERE PUNISHMENT.

SOME VICTIMS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY VENGEFUL, WHILE OTHERS ARE EXTREMELY FORGIVING."

ERS WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. EVEN SOME SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BROKEN RANKS TO SAY MORE SHOULD BE INVESTED IN PREVENTION RATHER THAN PRISON FOR CRIMINALS WHO ARE CAUGHT AND CONVICTED.

LORD

JULY 10 1996

news

British Psychological Society: Teenage suicides, masculinity and classroom victimisation under scrutiny. **Liz Hunt reports**

School ship disaster survivors in distress

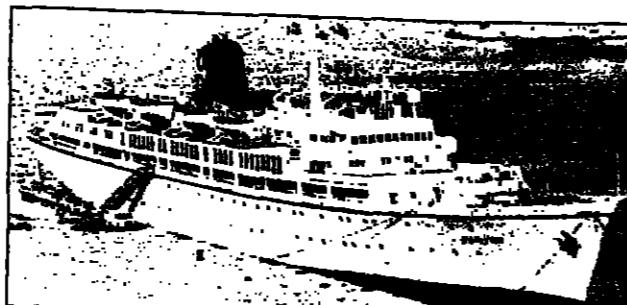
Almost one in 10 teenage survivors of a British school's cruise ship disaster have attempted suicide, and more than half have suffered severe psychological distress in the seven years since the sinking, psychologists said yesterday.

The survivors, now in their early twenties, are also at least a year behind their peers in their academic studies and fewer of them have gone to university or completed degrees.

Julie Nurrish, a researcher at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, said the findings suggest that the low uptake of counselling and support by the survivors following the disaster may be a factor in the persistence and extent of symptoms.

The SF *Jupiter* had just set sail from Piraeus, in Greece, with nearly 400 British schoolchildren, aged 14 to 15, on board when it was rammed by a freighter on 21 October 1988. It rapidly took on water and sank within 40 minutes. Four people died, a pupil and a teacher from Birmingham, and two Greek sailors.

Speaking on the second day of the British Psychological Society annual conference in Brighton yesterday, Ms Nurrish said that the follow-up study of survivors in the intervening seven years had produced some alarming findings. There had been 14 suicide attempts in the group of 168 survivors traced so far (9 per cent).



Traumatic voyage: SF 'Jupiter' sank in 40 minutes

compared with one in the control group of 58. A survivor had committed suicide in 1993.

Some 52 per cent of survivors had suffered post-traumatic stress disorder, with symptoms including flashbacks of the event, panic attacks, avoidance of water and boats, and distancing from their close family and friends. These symptoms had persisted for more than five years in 14 per cent of the group.

More than two-thirds of the survivors had suffered from depression or other forms of mental illness since the accident.

"We did not expect to find this degree of psychological morbidity," Ms Nurrish said. "All were offered counselling but very few – about 20 per cent – actually took it up. Further research is needed to determine if this was a factor."

There were more survivors with A-levels at the time of the follow-up than in the control

group, indicating that they should have gone on to university, but many did not.

The Young Adult Research Team, funded by the Medical Research Council, also interviewed mothers of survivors. Overall, the survivors said they could not plan for the future because they knew it could be cut short at any time. Most of them thought they were going to die during the sinking and it is this feeling that they have never forgotten, she added.

Ms Nurrish said that further analysis of findings from the three year study, to be completed this year, may identify "protective effects" in the early lives of some survivors which limited the trauma they suffered. "People do get through events, and why they do is a very important question."



Contemporary design: Beatrice Hosegood, from the auctioneers Bonhams, placing flowers in an earthenware circular vessel by James Tower, which is expected to fetch £2,500-£3,500 when auctioned next week. Photograph: Tony Buckingham

"If Sainsbury's isn't the No. 1 supermarket, I'll..."



Middle-aged find it tougher to be macho

LIZ HUNT

Men get less macho as they grow older. Those who behave badly in their youth can transform themselves into caring, sharing new men in middle age, a new study has shown.

These males are less likely to view women as sex objects, to favour toughness and the use of force, or disapprove of signs of femininity in other men, the BPS conference heard.

Professor John Archer, an expert on the mysteries of machismo in western culture, said the burden of jobs, marriage, and children may be more significant than diminishing testosterone levels in the loss of macho. Less pressure to attract women and to prove to others that you are "hard and tough" is also a factor.

A strongly physical masculinity is more important at younger ages as a strategy for competing with other men, with the ultimate aim of attracting women," Professor Archer said. "At older ages ... they have less need to be involved in this type of masculinity."

Professor Archer, from the Central Lancashire University, gave a questionnaire on a macho values to 600 men from a wide range of backgrounds. They were aged between 18 and 45 years and living in the North

West of England. The questionnaire measured how much they agreed with statements such as "Wife swapping is fine as long as both men agree" ... "There are too many wimpies and cowards around today" ... and "Real men don't back away from bar-room confrontations."

They were also asked how much they agreed with statements such as "It's a good thing for men to cry". Professor Archer found that the older the men, the less they endorsed macho attitudes. "We didn't anticipate this negative relationship with age," he said.

A further analysis of the group found that unemployed and manual workers revealed more macho tendencies, correlating with the traditional view of masculinity which is less prevalent in the more educated middle class samples, such as office workers and students.

The scores for sportsmen were lower than expected, but they were largely drawn from the middle classes so that occupation rather than choice of a particularly masculine sport was a determining factor.

The study also revealed a close link between heavy drinking and perceptions of masculinity. "Heavy drinking ... does provide yet another way for boys to seek to become men," Professor Archer added.

'Mind games' used by school bullies

School bullies who perfect psychological techniques of torment can inflict greater long term harm on their victims than those who use more direct physical methods, according to new research, writes **Liz Hunt**.

David Hawker, a psychologist at Keele University, said the most dangerous type of bullying could be overlooked by schools and teachers.

He told the BPS conference that pupils and teachers worried more about physical bullying and rated psychological bullying – such as being shunned by their class-mates – as less serious and upsetting to the victim.

However, a survey of 178 junior (aged 8 to 9) and secondary school children (aged 11 to 12) in six north Staffordshire schools, found that feelings linked to victimisation – depression, anxiety, loneliness, social dissatisfaction and low self-esteem – resulted more from psychological bullying.

It could involve social exclusion from games, parties and outings, or being sent to Coven by classmates, and the less serious psychological subordination, such as social put-

downs, teasing or name-calling. Research suggests that these forms of bullying, particularly social exclusion, appear to have more damaging long-term effects.

Girls were more adept at psychological bullying, through social exclusion of the victim or indirect means, such as social manipulation, or talking behind someone's back, for example. They believed physical bullying was more stressful.

Boys preferred the physical approach, and told researchers that social exclusion worried them more. As both groups got older, psychological methods became the bullying technique of choice.

Previous research suggests that 1 in 10 children is bullied at school, about three per class. Mr Hawker, and his colleague Michael Boultton from the Department of Psychology at Keele said there was growing awareness of bullying in its different forms in schools.

However, children as young as five appeared to accept bullying as a fact of life, and did not believe it could be stopped by rules and regulations.

Sainsbury's has been voted the No.1 supermarket in the Tommy's Campaign Parent Friendly Awards. And no wonder. Every Sainsbury's store has baby-changing facilities, with free Sainsbury's Performers nappies, baby wipes and disposal bags.

There's also a babyfood and milk warming service, parent and child parking spaces, even someone to help with packing and loading the car.

So please, don't eat that hat. It suits you.



news

Shephard urges discipline on parents



Shephard: Sanctions on parents of unruly children

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Parents would be forced to ensure that their children go to school and that they behave properly when they get there under legislation announced by Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education, yesterday.

A new package of measures revealed by Mrs Shephard at the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers conference in Glasgow would tighten up many areas of school discipline, she said.

Parents could be told that they might lose their right to

choose their children's schools if they persistently offended, she suggested.

Schools could be allowed to exclude children for up to 45 days in any one year, extending the limit from the current 15.

They might also be allowed to insist that parents back their discipline policies - at present, they can refuse to allow their children to be kept in detention.

Mrs Shephard also said there would be inspections of all special units for disruptive pupils. Poor reports have been issued on many of the first such units to receive these visits.

She criticised both schools and parents for having abused

the regulations on exclusions, allowing indefinite suspensions - now abolished - to drag on too long. Children had been left in limbo too often, she said.

"Good behaviour and discipline in schools are key foundations of good education. Without an orderly atmosphere in the classroom effective teaching and learning cannot take place," she said.

After a consultation period, legislation could be put forward

Teachers have complained that they cannot enforce discipline because parents are often un-cooperative, and that rules on parental choice often force

them to take pupils who have been excluded elsewhere.

In future, parental choice could be withdrawn in such cases and instead children could be placed by local authorities in the schools of their choice.

However, Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, said that the legislation would need to be backed by resources. He criticised Mrs Shephard for suggesting that schools had been too eager to exclude pupils in the past. The numbers have risen to 15,000 per year.

"If the profession were exclusion-happy we would not have 15,000. I think we would have more than 150,000 ex-

cluded every year. It's all very well to say that we can't leave these kids in limbo. But I don't want teachers and the majority of children left in hell."

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads' Association, said many schools were excluding children because their parents had refused to comply with other sanctions.

"We have to put emphasis on the welfare of other children in the school as well as on the one child who is being disruptive," he said.

Meanwhile, Mrs Shephard admitted that not all parents in four pilot areas introducing nursery vouchers this spring

Killer used skills learnt in abattoir

A former slaughterman who used his professional skill to kill his neighbour, disembowel and then hack her body in half, was ordered to be held at Rampton psychiatric hospital by an Old Bailey judge yesterday.

Jason Baldwin, 28, was sent there for further medical reports before sentencing after admitting the manslaughter of Maxine Boot, 37, on the grounds of diminished responsibility. The prosecution accepted his plea of not guilty to murdering her.

Baldwin - described as a psychotic loner with bizarre fixations - had taken an irrational dislike to the burger bar waitress who had a bed-sit in the block where he lived in Guildford, Surrey.

When they were alone in the premises on 10 March last year, he attacked her with a hatchet, sheath knife and pruning saw.

"It was a savage killing. She had severe head injuries and her throat was cut. She was then disembowelled with considerable professional skill in the course of the gruesome exercise after her death," Robert Seabrook QC, for the prosecution, said.

Baldwin then cut Miss Boot's body in half through the lower torso using the pruning saw to sever her spine. He had been sacked from his job at a local abattoir after attacking a workmate earlier in the year, causing him grievous bodily harm. He became a dustman and made use of the black refuse sacks to wrap his victim's body before throwing it into a nearby pond, where police recovered the remains five days later.

The two halves of the body had been stuffed into bin bags bearing the initials of Guildford Borough Council and the number 28 printed on them. It was Baldwin's dubious round number, and one with which he had a "bizarre fixation".

From medical reports - which described him as suffering from an extremely mixed personality disorder which suggested psychosis - Baldwin appeared to have decided to kill Miss Boot in advance and taken "some considerable pleasure from it".

Keyhole surgery 'takes longer and costs more'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS
Public Policy Editor

Hi-tech keyhole surgery to remove the gall bladder - an operation widely adopted by surgeons because of its "obvious advantages" - takes longer to do and offers no advantages over more conventional surgery, a hospital study has shown.

The finding yesterday led to calls in the medical journal *The Lancet* for more such studies into the effectiveness of surgical techniques.

New ones are frequently adopted without trials to prove they are superior to existing operations. Without more studies, the journal argues, surgeons will continue to face the charge that up to half their research is of questionable value.

The study at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield was rare for being a randomised controlled trial - the standard way to assess new drugs. Two hundred patients were allocated at random to a small incision operation or the keyhole technique, and the assessment of the outcome was hidden by providing dressings which masked the nature of the surgical scar.

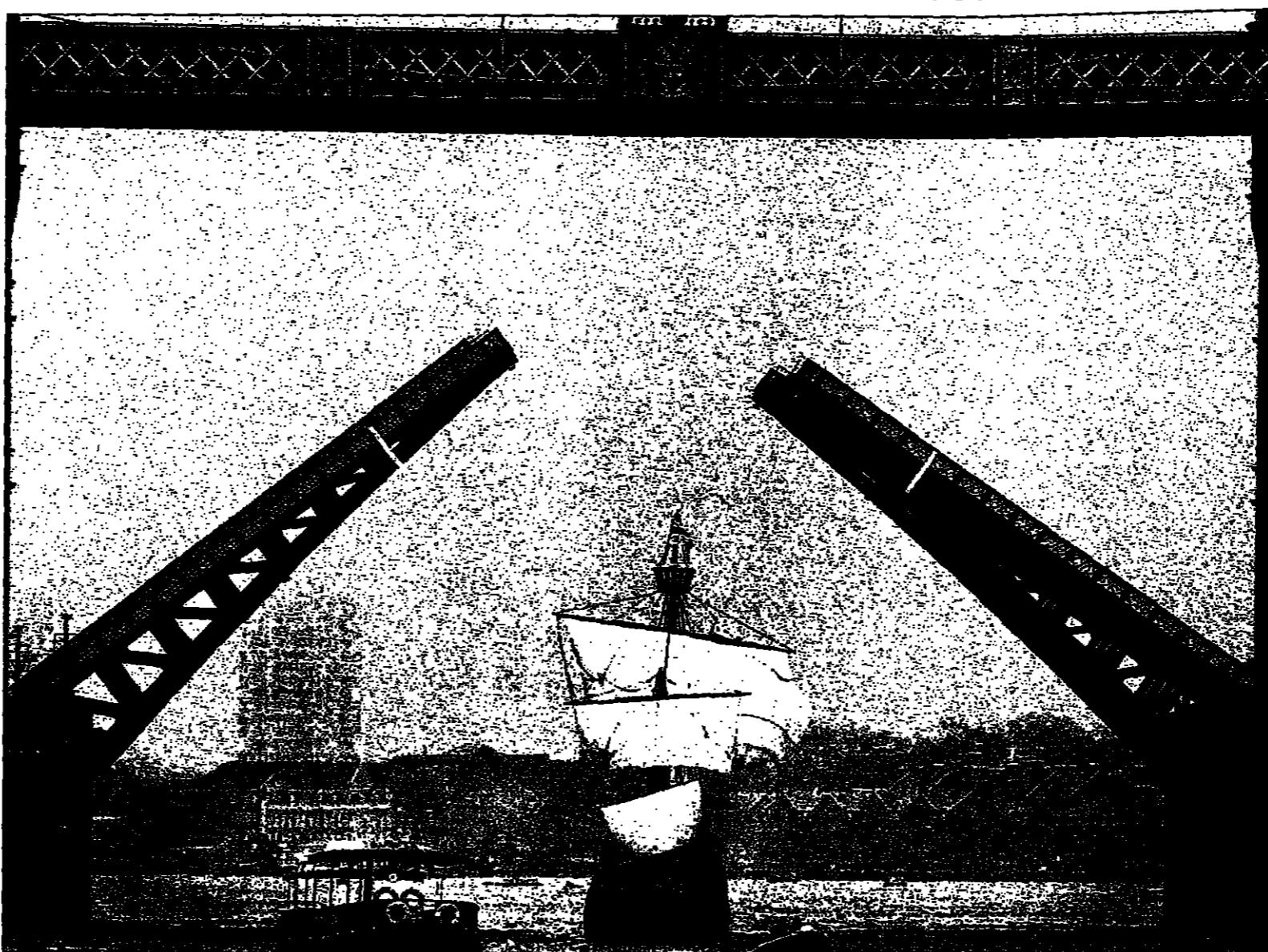
The study found that in terms of effectiveness, speed of recovery, hospital stay, time to get back to work and full

activity, the keyhole method offered no advantage. However, the operation took more than half as long again to perform on average - 65 minutes against 40 minutes - and is likely to be more expensive.

Gall bladder removal is one of the commonest operations, and surgeons have adopted the new technique because it appeared to have "obvious advantages" which have not been proved in practice, Mr Ali Majeed, the surgeon who headed the study, said. That may, he suggested, have had much to do with manufacturers' investment in the instruments and imaging systems needed to perform it. Such randomised studies account for less than 10 per cent of surgical research. *The Lancet* said, surgeons preferring simply to report a series of cases, an approach which tends to provide a more subjective comparison to existing methods.

The Lancet acknowledged difficulties in designing controlled trials for surgery, but a separate report showing the efficacy of a new Japanese operation for stomach cancer shows random studies can be done.

Surgeons must find ways to improve case series studies and to plan randomised trials, *The Lancet's* editor, Dr Richard Horton, said.



Passing through: A replica of the 15th-century ship Matthew, in which the explorer John Cabot left Bristol heading for Japan but found North America instead, sailing through Tower Bridge, London, during trials before a voyage to mark the 500th anniversary of the journey

Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

INTERNET JARGONE

- The Net?
- World Wide Web?
- e-mail?
- Surfing?
- On-line?



Unlimited jargon-free internet access available from £14.50 incl. VAT per month.

0345 326 326

For a FREE information brochure call Zoo Customer Services or visit <http://www.zoo.net.uk>

For 2 Player Game select Woolworths.
(1/2 price Joypad with any PlayStation game.)



£44.99

£44.99

£44.99

£44.99



£9.99

Get a half price Joypad for £9.99 when you buy any Sony PlayStation game at Woolworths.

Hurry, offer ends 29th May 1996.

WOOLWORTHS

1-800-247-4633

All items subject to availability

When exercising a claim for a refund, some blind people ask the vendor to return the item to a piece of furniture like a dresser, sofa, or chair. If it is not confirmed with the vendor, it may be a mistake.

Royal National Life

Opinion

Killer
used
skills
learnt in
abattoir

Death of seven-year-old pilot: World condemns 'exploitative' record trip that led to disaster

Air chiefs to review flying by children



Family support: Lisa Hathaway, pilot Jessica Dubroff's mother, with her other daughter, Jasmine, three

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

A note placed at the crash site yesterday where Jessica Dubroff was killed read: "God's newest little angel". But world reaction to the death of the seven-year-old girl trying to become the youngest pilot to fly across America was more angry than sympathetic.

While Jessica's mother asked people to "let children fly if they want to fly", the US Federal Aviation Administration promised to review rules covering under-age and unlicensed pilots.

American flying experts called the flight an irresponsible, exploitative adventure. "Dead for a record" proclaimed the Swiss daily *Le Matin*. Australian radio news called it a "publicity stunt that ended in a disaster".

"I feel that there is no place in aviation for such foolishness as this type of flight," was one comment on CompuServe's online aviation forum.

Jessica's aircraft crashed

shortly after take-off in a residential street in Cheyenne, Wyoming, early on Thursday. Her instructor Joe Reid and her father, Lloyd, who was in the back of the four-seater aircraft, died with her.

"Clearly I would want all my children to die in a state of joy," said her mother Lisa Hathaway. "I would prefer it was not at age seven, but, God, she went with her joy and her passion, and her life was in her hands."

The girl from a small northern California town, with curly, a wistful look in her eye and a blue baseball cap with the logo "Women Fly", was the picture of American girlhood.

Jessica was reported as a passionate reader of biographies of Amelia Earhart, the pioneer pilot who disappeared on a trans-Pacific flight and is still one of America's favourite romantic heroines.

Like the Apollo 13 space mission, her flight had attracted only passing attention until it went wrong, but yesterday her face dominated newspapers



Flight to tragedy: Jessica's aircraft is lifted from the street where it crashed in Cheyenne. Photograph: Ed Andrieski

and television shows. "I cared deeply for this little girl," said the mayor of Cheyenne, Leo Pando, breaking down in tears with memories of his own daughter who was drowned in a flood at 16. "She had a refreshing optimism that is plainly lacking in today's world."

Jessica, who needed a booster chair to see out of the windscreen and aluminium exten-

sions to reach the pedals, would have struggled to exert the 60lbs of pressure that the FAA generally assumes a pilot can put on controls. She was not legally flying the four-seater Cessna but at present children of any age may take control under supervision if a pilot deems it safe.

Bystanders said Jessica was clearly at the controls when the

aircraft took off in driving rain at an airport 6,000ft high, where thinner air meant its engines had substantially less power. The temperature was also near freezing. She had only four months experience in the cockpit and was on the second leg of her planned 6,500 mile round trip.

The unofficial record for trans-continental flights was set

by Daniel Shankin in 1991, just a month older than Jessica, and an eight-year-old made the flight last year. "It's the American way," said Drew Steketee, of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, which like other industry groups has been nervous about such events. "If an 11-year-old does it, a 10's going to do it, then a nine, then an eight, then a seven."

international

IN BRIEF

Britain attacks Gibraltar customs checks
London — The Foreign Office Minister, David Davis, said yesterday that there was "no justification" for Spain's introduction of extra customs checks on the border with Gibraltar, writes Christopher Bellamy. The checks were introduced following the loss of a Spanish helicopter in pursuit of a drug smugglers' boat on Thursday. In a strongly worded statement, Mr Davis said drug smuggling in the area took place at sea and there was "no evidence that drugs cross the land frontier". He added: "If Spain has any constructive proposals for further co-operation, we will of course consider them carefully."

China roots out military pen pal menace
Peking — The discipline and ideological purity of China's army is being contaminated by soldiers' pen pals, the *Liberation Army Daily* warned. "Some soldiers become bored and dissatisfied and blindly think that the outside world is exciting," the newspaper said.

Kantor to replace Brown

Washington — The US Trade Representative, Mickey Kantor, (right) is President Clinton's choice to replace Ron Brown as Commerce secretary. Mr Kantor has a reputation as a tough advocate of US trade interests abroad. Mr Brown was killed when his plane crashed in Croatia while he was on a Balkan tour. The news came as Mr Clinton and Mr Kantor were promoting efforts by the trade representative's office to lower the trade deficit with Japan.



Florida bomb kills woman

Plantation, Florida — A woman was killed and three children were injured when a package exploded just after it was delivered to a home in an affluent neighbourhood. A child took the package inside and it exploded when it was opened. The woman was dead and a 13-year-old boy, 10-year-old girl and 7-year-old boy were injured. The US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms sent an investigator to the scene.

Jackal targeted French minister

Paris — The international guerrilla "Carlos the Jackal" considered attacking the then-Socialist justice minister Robert Badinter in the 1980s, *Le Monde* reported yesterday. The late Francois de Grossouvre, a close aide to the late president Francois Mitterrand, was another possible target.

US turns Okinawa airport over to locals

Tokyo — Setting the stage for a visit next week by President Clinton, the US has agreed to return a large airfield on Okinawa to local landowners over the next five to seven years. Sentiment against the American bases has been running high since three US servicemen raped a schoolgirl last September.

Sri Lanka foils seaborne Tamil attack

Colombo — Naval gunboats destroyed two Tamil rebel fishing trawlers laden with explosives, one inside Colombo's busy harbour and one approaching it. Both trawlers exploded when the gunboats opened fire. Sailors said they believe at least five rebels were killed, including two frogmen carrying explosives.

AP

HK 'heads for rosy future' under China

Hong Kong — The Chinese official in charge of Hong Kong affairs painted a rosy picture of events after the colony's return to China next year. "Hong Kong will still be a free port, an international finance and trade centre. Hong Kong's future will be even better," Lu Ping, director of Beijing's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, told a business conference.

Reuter

King asks Aznar to form government

Madrid — Spain's King Juan Carlos formally asked conservative leader Jose Maria Aznar to form a government on the basis of his slim win in an election last month.

Reuter

How to cash a cheque.



When expecting a cheque in the post, some blind people ask the sender to attach it to a piece of textured paper, like kitchen roll, so that it is not confused with a compliment slip, or thrown away by mistake.

It's a simple solution to one of the frustrating problems that arise when blind people are sent information they cannot read. The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) is campaigning for visually impaired people to have access to essential information like bank statements and phone bills in 'readable' forms. We convert printed items from bus

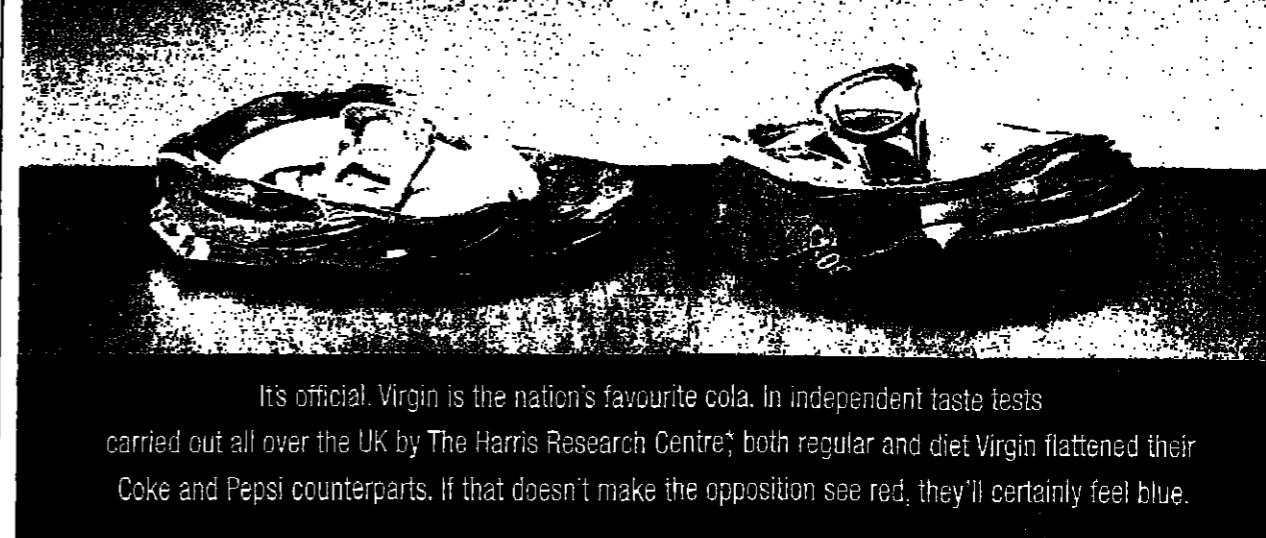
timetables and washing instructions to knitting patterns and recipes. RNIB's work is especially important if you consider that many visually impaired people live alone. For more details about RNIB call us on 0345 023040.



Royal National Institute for the Blind

Charity Registration Number 226277

VIRGIN CRUSH COKE AND PEPSI IN TASTE TEST.



It's official. Virgin is the nation's favourite cola. In independent taste tests carried out all over the UK by The Harris Research Centre*, both regular and diet Virgin flattened their Coke and Pepsi counterparts. If that doesn't make the opposition see red, they'll certainly feel blue.



*Researched amongst 6000 people in March 1996.

JULY 1996

international

in north from Tyre
West
fears
harm to
peace
process

Communists decry Yeltsin's media circus

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

His critics say he bends with the wind, that he has no real convictions. But there is one issue about which Gennady Zyuganov, Russia's Communist leader, is consistent as he campaigns across the huge country that he would so love to rule: he thinks that much of the Russian media is out to get him.

With just over two months to go before the presidential election, Mr Zyuganov has seen his once commanding lead in the polls shrink to single figures. There is, he claimed yesterday, "powerful machinery" opposing him. It has even produced a pile of official documents outlining the best way of crushing his presidential challenge, he said.

And he believes one of the main weapons against him is the Kremlin's ability to manipulate the press. This week he spelt out this grievance in an attack on the state-controlled *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* after it refused to publish his party's pre-election programme. "Here we are, electing

a president," he complained. "and yet the government newspaper does not familiarise its readers with all the materials."

Mr Zyuganov, it must be said, has a case. One reason for Boris Yeltsin's improving fortunes – polls place him between four and nine points behind the Communist leader – is the extensive television coverage of the President's activities.

This is hardly surprising. Russia's two top television stations, ORT and Russian Television (RTR), are state-controlled. In February, their executives were given a harsh object lesson about the perils of displeasing the Kremlin, when Mr Yeltsin sacked the head of RTR, Oleg Popov, accusing him of misreporting the war in Chechnya.

A third big network, NTV, has long had a reputation for challenging the Yeltsin administration, an independence of spirit that resulted in several angry clashes with the authorities. Last year, for example, the Procurator General launched a criminal investigation into a NTV reporter who interviewed the Chechen rebel commander



Hard sell: Messrs Yeltsin (left) and Zyuganov and the spin doctor Sir Tim Bell (right), who has reportedly been advising the President

Shamil Basayev. There was a row over a widely ridiculed attempt by prosecutors to bring a case against *Kukly*, an irreverent *Splitting Image*-type programme – an ill-judged plan that was eventually abandoned. Yet these days, NTV's coverage of

Mr Yeltsin has softened markedly.

Critics have attributed this to the fact that NTV's president, Igor Malashenko, has not only declared support for the President but also heads the information department for his

re-election campaign. Mr Malashenko is reportedly being advised by Sir Tim Bell, Baroness Thatcher's former spin-doctor, though Sir Tim has refused to comment. Sir Tim is said to have been the inspiration behind a recent ap-

pearance on NTV of Mr Yeltsin's wife, Naina. In a glowing prime-time interview, she extolled her husband's qualities, which included being a dab hand at cooking Siberian dumplings.

While the television compa-

nies are on the President's side, so too are many of the newspapers – not least because many of them rely on government subsidies to survive. Although the Communists can rely on support from three opposition papers (*Pravda*, *Sovetskaya Rossiya*

and *Zarya*), they are under fire from the majority of the other major players, including the mass-circulation *Argumenty i Fakty*, and *Izvestia*.

However, Mr Zyuganov's complaints about unfair reporting would carry more weight among non-Communist voters if his own views on press freedom were more liberal. He recently said he did not believe criticism of the Soviet Union should necessarily be protected as free speech. "We are for full freedom of expression but we want the journalists to be guided by law. I do not think that is an instance of freedom of expression when those who call themselves democrats ... lay their flag out like a dodo bird, and wipe their feet on it."

Fears about his views were emphasised yesterday by the Fund for Protection of Glasnost, a civil-rights group set up to protect press freedom. If Mr Zyuganov wins power, it would close within six months, said its chairman, Alexei Simonov. "The idea of Communist heavy cannot be combined with the freedom of the press."

Safety 'must be priority for nuclear power'

ADRIAN BRIDGE
Central Europe Correspondent

Germany's environment minister, Angela Merkel, yesterday appealed for higher safety standards in the nuclear power industry but stopped well short of calling for the immediate closure of the most dangerous reactors still in operation in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

Winding up a four-day conference coinciding with the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, Ms Merkel said that, despite that catastrophe, the nuclear power industry still had a future – but only if safety was made the top priority.

Her sentiments were shared by the more than 700 politicians and scientists from East and West attending the conference in Vienna, although many would have liked her to have gone much further.

Many had hoped for an unequivocal call for the shutdown of the 15 Chernobyl-type reactors still in operation in Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania. For their part, environmentalists would have welcomed a rejection of the whole idea of nuclear power technology.

"As far as we are concerned, there is never any justification for nuclear energy," said Radko Pawlowitz of the Vienna-based Global 2000 environmental lobby.

by group. "The Chernobyl-type reactors should be closed down without any doubt and if we really want to reduce risks altogether we should return to more conventional types of power station."

Despite improvements made to the 15 Chernobyl-style RBMK reactors since 1986, many experts at the conference expressed doubts about whether they could now be considered safe.

A report prepared by the International Atomic Energy Agency, one of the co-organisers of the conference, called for the further upgrading of the plants to Western safety levels: the cost of which has been estimated at between \$150m (£100m)-\$200m per unit.

Given the current economic difficulties of Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania, funding for the work can come only from the West, leaders of whom will be gathering in Moscow later this month for a Group of Seven richest nations summit on nuclear issues.

Delegates in Vienna were also divided over the legacy of Chernobyl. Claims by the Ukrainian health ministry that 125,000 people had died as a result of the disaster were disputed by Western specialists, who claimed that fewer than 100 deaths could be directly attributed to what had happened.

LAUREL AND HARDY CHARACTER JUGS



Highly prized collectors' items from Royal Doulton

A limited edition of just 3,500 sets with matching edition numbers. These magnificent jugs are a wonderful tribute to the world's best-loved comedy duo. Standing a full four inches high, the jugs are expertly sculpted in fine china and feature charming handles with lavish platinum detailing.

The jugs are available exclusively from Lawleys by Post for one instalment of £99.50, or five instalments of £19.90*.

NO QUERELLE GUARANTEE
If you decide not to keep your jugs, we will refund your money without question. If anything is wrong when they arrive, we will replace them straight away.

Royal Doulton

Laurel and Hardy Characters - © 1996. All Rights Reserved. Licensed by Larry Harmon Pictures, Inc., New York, NY.
Lawley's by Post, Royal Doulton, London Road, Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, MK9 3QD
Lawley's by Post is a division of Royal Doulton (UK) Ltd. Registered on SAVN

PRIORITY ORDER FORM - NO STAMPS NEEDED

I enclose a cheque payable to Lawley's by Post for £99.50 as payment in full □ or for £19.90 as the first of 5 monthly instalments □ OR

Please debit my Access/American Express/Diners Club/Visa card with one payment of £99.50 □ or with £19.90 as the first instalment, followed by four further instalments at monthly intervals. □

Card Number Expiry Date Name
Address Postcode

Daytime Tel. No.

Signature (I am over 18 years) Date

Return to: Terry Selman, Lawley's by Post, FREEPOST Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7BR, or telephone your credit card order on (01782) 744787 (answering machine outside office hours). Please allow 28 days for despatch.

*Written quotation on request.

**RATES SO LOW
YOU CAN HARDLY SEE THEM!!**

**THE
MISSING
MORTGAGE**

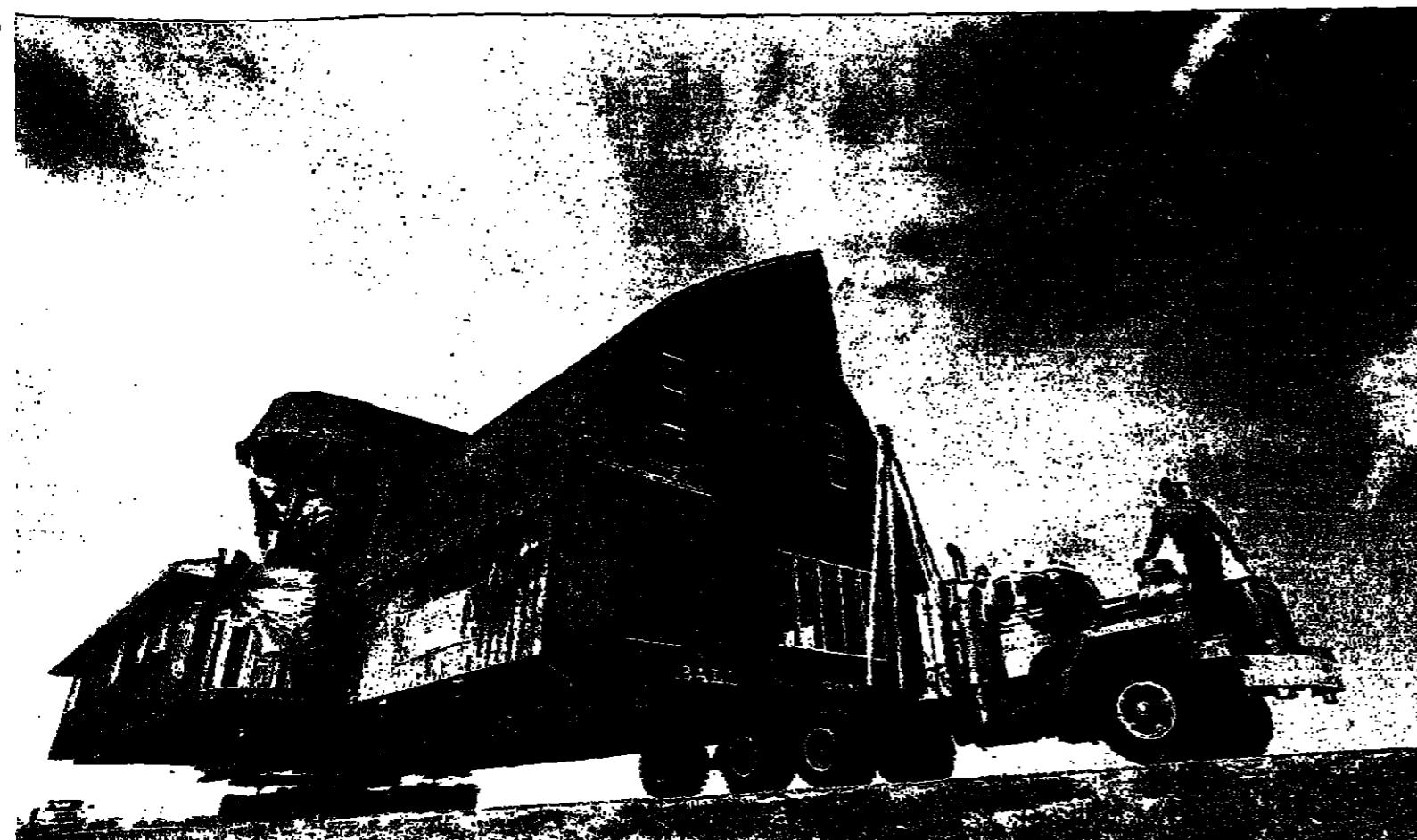
Revealing
LOWEST EVER RATES
FREE VALUATION
1 YEAR'S FREE UNEMPLOYMENT
COVER

To find out more call into your branch
or phone free on 0800 412214

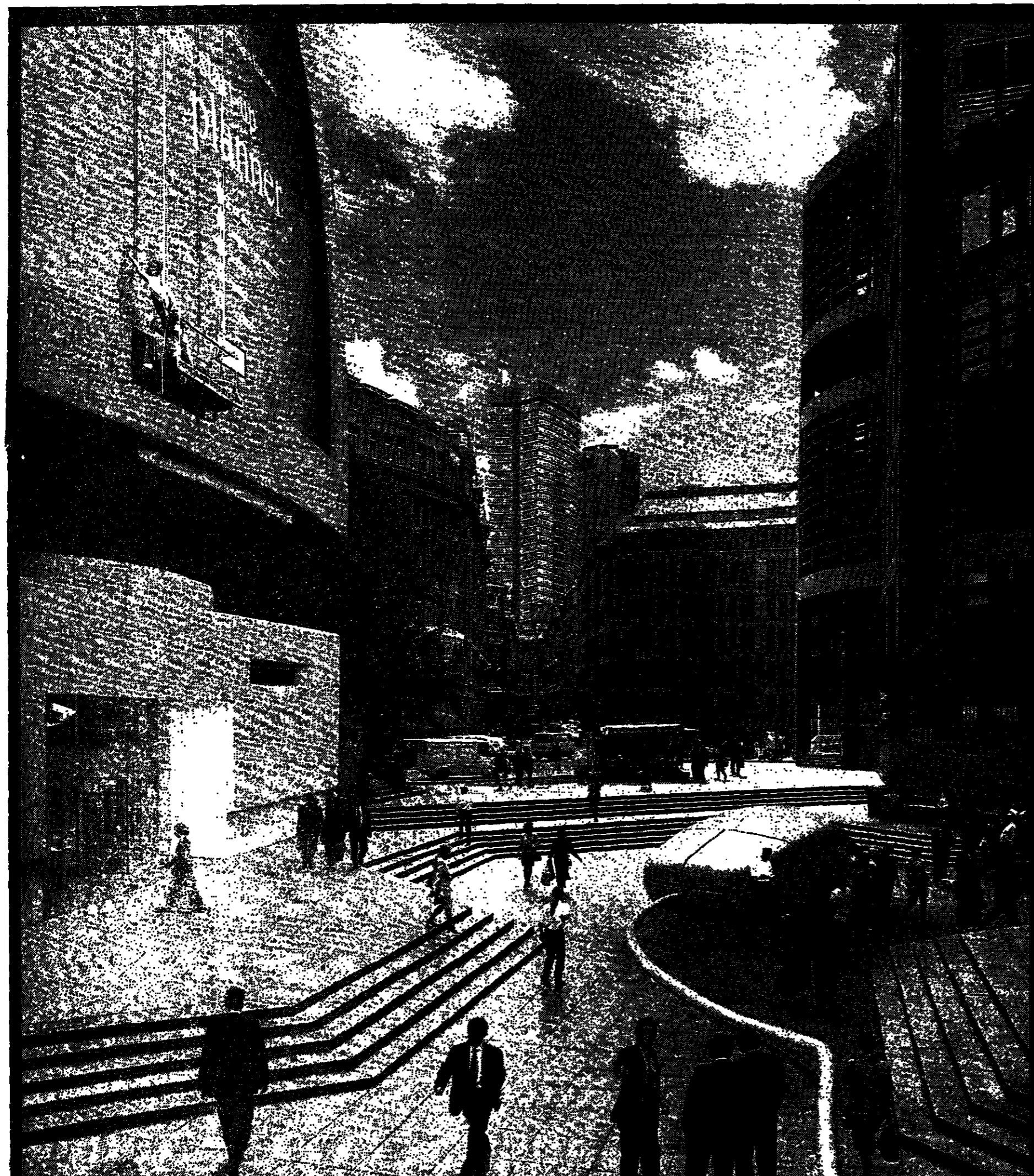
**ALLIANCE
LEICESTER**

THE MORTGAGE DEALS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO NEW CUSTOMERS OR EXISTING HOMEOWNERS WHO APPLIED FOR A MORTGAGE BETWEEN 4TH MARCH AND 17TH MAY 1996. MORTGAGES ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AGED 18 OR OVER, AND ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND VALUATION. YOUR HOME WILL BE USED AS SECURITY FOR THE LOAN AND MUST BE ADEQUATELY INSURED. THE LOWEST EVER RATES APPLY TO THE SOCIETY'S DISCOUNTED AND SHORT TERM FIXED RATE MORTGAGES ONLY. IF YOU REQUIRERE DETAILS OF THE SPECIFIC RATES PLEASE REFER TO THE MORTGAGE LEAFLET AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE VALUATION REFUND IS LIMITED TO THE VALUE OF THE SOCIETY'S OPTION 1 VALUATION AND IS PAYABLE AFTER COMPLETION OF YOUR MORTGAGE. TO QUALIFY FOR A VALUATION REFUND, THE SOCIETY MUST CHOOSE AND INSTRUCT THE VALUER THE VALUATION REFUND CARRIER. THE SOCIETY CAN USE ANY VALUATION COMPANY THAT IS APPROVED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER ARE AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH. THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER IS PROVIDED BY THE SOCIETY AND EXCLUSIVELY APPLICABLE TO THE FREE UNEMPLOYMENT ACCIDENT & DISABILITIES COVER. VALUATION REFUND DETAILS OF THE SOCIETY AND

international



In the move: A barn bought to house the Sherman family of seven being driven through Kansas from Goessel to McPherson. Photograph: AP



Plan your new business on computer with NatWest and Microsoft.

To help you get your business off the ground we've taken the planning elements of our Business Start-Up Guide and put them on a free disk, so now you can develop

your business plan, budgets and cashflow on computer. For more information call us on 0800 777 888 or speak to the Small Business Adviser in your local high street branch.

 **NatWest**
More than just a bank

National Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Registered in England No. 929027. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Member of the NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group advising on the life assurance, pensions and unit trust products only of that Marketing Group.

Family reunion spells trouble for India's PM

New Delhi — At the height of the feud between the queen mother of Gwalior and her son, they lived walled off from each other in a colossal palace, which rises above the plains of central India, and never spoke. They inhabited rival political realms too. She is a Hindu revivalist, while her son, Madhavrao, belonged to the secular Congress party. As the queen mother once remarked wistfully: "I should have let elephants trample on him when he was born."

The rift in the royal house of Gwalior has been one of the most captivating and longest-running sagas in Indian politics. Mother and son traded accusations of stealing family heir-

looms. They padlocked doors in their 150-room Jain Vilas palace to keep each other away from the Persian rugs, the Belgian glass babbles and the Louis XVI furniture. Both are MPs; neither the son nor the mother lost a chance in parliament to sling insults at one other.

However, the Gwalior's dynastic quarrel may finally have ended. The mother and son's reunion, however, is bad news for Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister and Congress party leader, who inadvertently got the two back together again. The royal pair could harm Mr Rao's hopes of a Congress victory in Madhya Pradesh in the upcoming general elections.

The wily Prime Minister had gambled on revenge being a stronger trait among the Scindia warrior dynasty than forgiveness. He gambled wrong. In February, Mr Rao orchestrated a corruption scandal that tarred all of his leading challengers — both among the opposition leaders and inside Congress. Urbane, aristocratic and rich, Mr Scindia was seen by 74-year-old Mr Rao as a rising threat. Mr Scindia, along with several other cabinet ministers, was forced by the premier to resign for allegedly having accepted black money. He was also denied an election ticket.

Instead of gloating in his Gwalior citadel, Mr Scindia chose to fight against Mr Rao's manoeuvrings. He launched a new party, the Madhya Pradesh Vikas Congress, on Monday and went on the campaign trail inside his ancestors' Gwalior kingdom, which at its peak encompassed 25,000 square miles. Although India's princes and nawabs were stripped of their titles, land and power after independence, Mr Scindia everywhere is given a maharajah's greeting: people bow and reverentially touch his feet.

The queen mother was gladdened by her son's revolt against Congress. "Mothers have traditionally forgiven errant sons," said the tiny but haughty Raj Mata. Besides, she said, "The Scindia name has been dishonoured [by the premier] and we must fight."

The family feud dated back to 1977 when the then premier, Indira Gandhi, assumed dictatorial powers and jailed the Raj Mata along with hundreds of other politicians and jour-

nalists. The queen mother's son fled to Nepal while his mother suffered in a cell. When she was released in 1980, the Raj Mata vowed to contest Mrs Gandhi's parliamentary seat. As one family friend explained: "Madhavrao knew that Mrs Gandhi was very vindictive. She could have made a lot of trouble for the Scindias, confiscating their wealth and land and putting them all back in jail."

To the queen mother's shame and dismay, her son joined the Congress party. He befriended Indira Gandhi even though she had tried to destroy his mother. It was around then that the Raj Mata said she wished her son had been trampled at birth by elephants.

Mr Scindia's mother is a



Rao reluctantly reunited Scindia family

leader in the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, and the BJP has now withdrawn its candidate for the Gwalior seat. Many of the state's Congress party leaders have snubbed the Prime Minister and are also pledging support for Mr Scindia. In Gwalior, the Congress party headquarters is virtually deserted, according to newspaper reports.

With general elections beginning on 27 April (2 and 7 May are also polling days), the Congress party's chances of winning a majority in parliament are looking dimmer. Not only is Mr Rao bound to lose the key state of Madhya Pradesh with the Gwalior royals fighting against him, but Congress strategists privately admit that the party is likely to suffer defeat in the Ganges plains of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as well as in the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Fresh fighting speeds exodus from Liberia

NYENATI ALLISON
Associated Press

Monrovia — Government troops, rebels and thieves exchanged heavy weapons fire on the streets of Liberia's seaside capital yesterday, speeding the country's descent into chaos.

The United Nations announced it would attempt to get nearly 100 of its workers out of the capital by boat. A US spokesman said a British merchant ship was offshore and would soon join the military operations.

Government troops resumed shelling of the military barracks where thousands of supporters of the warlord Roosevelt Johnson are holed up. Large explosions were heard throughout the city.

Witnesses said two children were killed and 17 people were wounded by mortar fire at the barracks yesterday morning. Overnight shelling killed seven people in a barracks church.

Government troops — many of whom are former rebels brought into the military when a peace accord was reached last year — were reported ransacking and taking over houses.

"Nowhere is safe, not even your bathroom," said Martha Sebwe, a nurse at the military hospital who fled to the Mamba Point Hotel, where 500 people were holed up.

More than 900 people had been evacuated by US military helicopters by yesterday morning, after a day of looting and fighting between rival rebels and peace-keepers who appeared to join in the looting on Thursday.

Up to 20,000 people, including foreign diplomats, missionaries and Liberians, have sought refuge in the embassy compound and UN offices since fighting broke out between rebels and government troops last Saturday.

A spokesman for the peace-keeping troops said the Ghanaian President, Jerry Rawlings, had arrived with a diplomatic delegation from members of the Economic Community of West African States to help mediate a potential ceasefire.

The violence has taken its toll on Monrovia. Food and medicine are scarce and residents are desperate.

"Lord, please help us out of this madness," said Maima Jones, a housewife. "Your children are dying."

WORLDCOVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
CALL US ON 0800 365 121



When you just can't talk to anyone, talk to us.

We'll go through it with you. The Samaritans

A Registered Charity.

[Handwritten signature]

Despair doesn't work nine to five. Despair comes in the small hours of the night, or on Christmas Day. It comes at weekends, or when you're surrounded by people.

Samaritans work round the clock, every day of the year. When you pick up the phone, there'll be someone there to help pick up the pieces.

You won't be put on hold, or put through a grilling. And you won't be judged or talked down to.

Our number's in the phone book, and every call is confidential. We'll be there to talk to you.

4 It's funny how priorities change. I kept writing from America preferring the unpredictability of city centre walks and small shopkeepers and buskers and sellers. But since Adam, was born in August, I have seen things differently.

PICTURE STORY
INTERVIEW
GROCERIES

45

The Independent Weekend

Photograph: John Layton/Robert Windrush

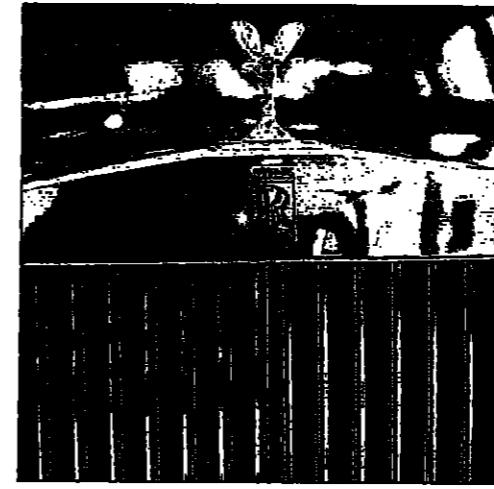
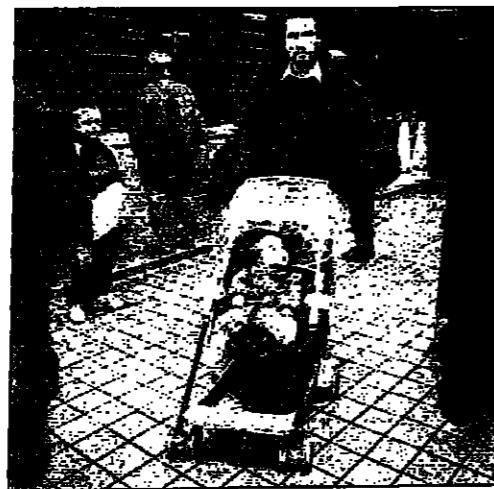


On the trail of the egg thieves

A One-man's battle to protect the nest of
the peregrine falcon

page 13

INSIDE STORIES



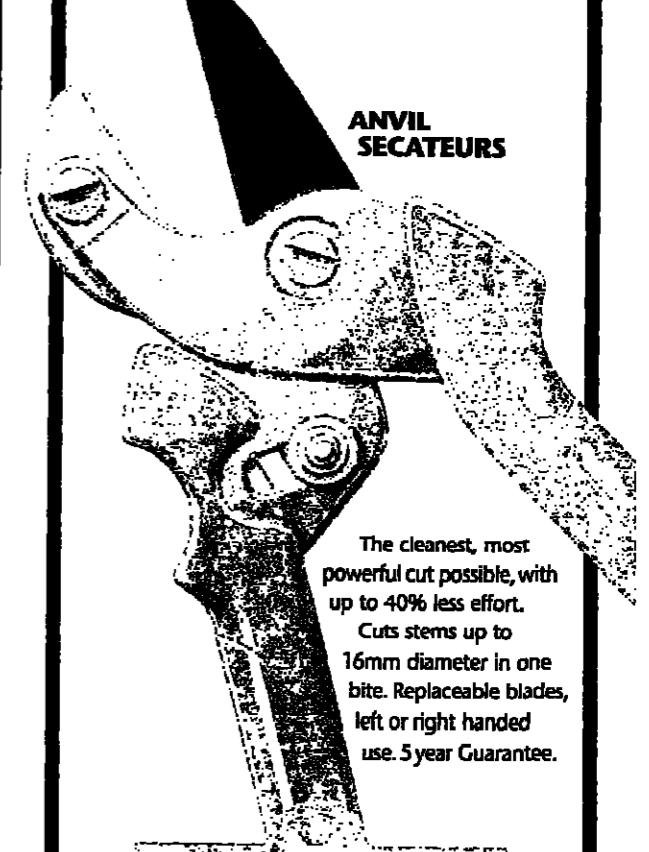
4 It's funny how your priorities change. A year ago I kept well away from American-style malls, preferring the unpredictability of the city centre with its market and small shops, its buskers and 'Big Issue' sellers. But since my son, Adam, was born last August, I have started to see things differently

8 One of the greatest mysteries of the Thatcher years was how the PM's husband managed to avoid the sarcastic opprobrium that is routinely heaped onto female political consorts. No one ever suggested Denis was pulling the strings. He never seemed anything more than a hen-pecked old fogey

11 'Ritch bitch,' he said. And all my friend was doing was filling her £6,995 car at a petrol station in Derby. And, no, she was not dressed in mink, nor even in Prada. This friend is neither rich nor a bitch. But, for her sins, she does drive a two-tone second-hand Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow

A Wolf has strong jaws.

ANVIL SECATEURS



The cleanest, most powerful cut possible, with up to 40% less effort. Cuts stems up to 16mm diameter in one bite. Replaceable blades, left or right handed use. 5 year Guarantee.

More thought, less effort.

Wolf Garden, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5NE.
Brochure hotline: 01989 767600

PICTURE STORY.....2	ARTS.....6-7	GARDENING.....12	PROPERTY.....21	TV & RADIO.....
INTERVIEW.....3	BOOKS.....8-10	COUNTRY.....13	MONEY.....22-25	TODAY.....28
SHOPPING.....4-5	MOTORING.....11	TRAVEL.....14-19	GOING OUT.....26	SUNDAY.....27

2
picture story



The horizons of Soweto children rarely stretch beyond the tumbledown shacks that scatter their landscape. Few go to school, but are less likely to commit street crime or fall victim to it as a result of Trans-Sizwe. This 400-strong security firm, set up in 1993 to meet the demand for law-enforcement from businesses, shopping centres and stations, has a widespread presence in the camps, which are regarded by the state police as no-go areas

SQUATTERS OF SOWETO

The end of apartheid brought hope to the millions living in the shanty towns of South Africa. But the problems of poverty, social unrest and crime have continued. Emma Boam visited Chris Hanif's squatter camp in Soweto to record living conditions and found that since the setting up of Trans-Sizwe, a private security firm comprising many former ANC guerillas, the quality of life has slowly started to improve



Three members of Trans-Sizwe, which comprises former members of the ANC, veterans from the Angolan war and ex-prisoners. All are highly trained in secret bunkers in Soweto



Despite the temporary nature of their accommodation, the squatters are keen to mark out their territory to secure ownership and deter burglars



Weapons collected from youths who are stopped and searched at Ciptown station, which is on the main-line through Soweto



Two common sights: (above) animals are often kept for a spot of subsistence farming, while (right), despite or perhaps because of the poverty, families stay close-knit. Here, a boy stands between his mother and grandmother



...
Joyce 150

Sp
th
fr

Deborah W
Teresa S
M
The Natio
Protean



JEPY 10/5/96

interview

Space: the final frontier

Deborah Warner is one of our leading theatre directors, but she doesn't like working in theatres. She'd rather stage 'The Waste Land' down a lift shaft than at the National any day. By Paul Taylor. Photographs by Neil Libbert



Above: Deborah Warner, frustrated by the English insistence on subsidising buildings rather than people. Left: Fiona Shaw on the set of *The Waste Land*, Paris

If there's one thing Deborah Warner finds fatally limiting, it's people "who think they know the shape of theatre". Fixed ideas on either the sort of spaces theatre is permitted to inhabit or the form it is allowed to take are abhorrent to her. This may account for why she is to be found at the moment travelling around the world - Paris, Montreal, Toronto, Milan - with her production of TS Eliot's *The Waste Land*, a text which was very much not written as a theatre piece and which is performed by Fiona Shaw in non-theatrical sites selected by Warner for their atmospheric reaction with this great modernist poem and its famous "heap of broken images".

The evocative power of buildings seems to have become an obsession with the multi-award-winning 36-year-old director. One of the strangest and most memorable successes of last year's LIFT festival, for example, was Warner's *St Pancras Project*, which treated the grand, wrecked, abandoned interior of Gilbert Scott's Victorian Gothic station hotel as a sort of "found poem" on the theme of suspension between two lives. Audience members, if so they could still be called, were sent individually through it on a mapped-out "fantastical walk". Inverting normal theatrical convention, where the building houses a communally shared experience, the building in this case constituted the experience, as vestigial ghosts of its former existence stirred, flickered, and half-materialised at the corner of your eye, making you feel like Alice alone in a serially haunting dream.

If Warner were to write a book about her adventures and misadventures searching out locations for *The Waste Land*, "Let's do the show right here!" would make a neatly ironic title. In Brussels, where the piece originated, she found an abandoned department store "which had a marvellous lift-well down the middle. We were going to put Fiona at the bottom of the well, with the audience looking down. It would have been a terrific spatial relationship." Permission fell through, though, as it did for putting Shaw in one of the booths in the mission-control-like new conference chambers of the European Parliament, with the audience in the green armchairs receiving the piece through translation headphones. The Parliament didn't much care for the title of the work; while Neil Kinnock's office, to which she

appealed, said: "Now, if it had been a Welsh poem, there would have been no problem."

Boomy towns - "where everything has just been turned into a new night-club" - are particularly tricky. When Warner finally found the perfect deserted, derelict spot in Toronto, it turned out that the ground on which the tin hut in question stood was poisoned ("I quite liked that"). But if, from the artistic perspective, this merely enhanced the setting's charm and relevance to a poem about spiritual sterility, it also, from the authorities' point of view, ruled it out. Each city, though, has, finally, come up with the goods. In Dublin, for example, *The Waste Land* was staged at an abandoned English fort atop a hill in Phoenix Park in the low, domed-ceilinged 18th-century bunkers where they kept the gunpowder. "The space was abstract," says Warner. "It was almost like walking into someone's brain."

I caught up with the production a fortnight ago in Paris, where Shaw performed the poem in the intimate Amphithéâtre de Morphologie, where students take life-drawing classes at the Ecole nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts. Paris was a good spot on the itinerary at which to intersect with this show and not just because, by now, the actress has developed a deep, virtuous inwardness with the material or because the French capital - where Warner and Shaw ("le tandem anglais") made the front page of *Le Monde* in January when the National's *Richard II* (with Shaw as king) hit town - houses a wildly appreciative audience for this English director's work (she's been made a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres). More tellingly, Paris has also emerged as an alternative source of subsidy for her imagination.

Two years ago, Warner's staging of Samuel Beckett's *Footfalls* at the Garrick Theatre was the subject of scandal, when her relocation of some of the lines and her deviation from the pedantic dead letter, if not the spirit, of the play's stage directions caused the Beckett Estate to issue a *faux pas* on the projected European tour and TV version. One little noticed irony of the affair is that this conscious attempt to break the pattern of West End theatre-going (the Garrick interior dislocatingly transformed; the show, lasting an intense 20 minutes, performed twice-nightly at £4 a ticket) was produced by MC 93 Bobigny, a generously funded French theatre in

a very big outer circle borough of Paris that happens to be run by the Communists. (The same outfit sponsored the French runs of *Richard II*, to the tune of £260,000, and of *The Waste Land*.) Among Warner's plans for the coming year are a production of either *Miss Julie* or *A Doll's House* at the Odéon with Isabelle Huppert in the leading role. At an enigmatic point in English theatre's fortunes - with Trevor Nunn, the surprise artistic director designate of the National, yet to disclose his hand - Paris offers a revealing perspective from which to look at a key young English director's relationship with her native theatre and the challenges she faces in securing imaginative freedom.

There was a period recently of about two years when Warner, one of the National's associates, significantly produced no work on the South Bank. She has grown much fonder of the place of late - particularly since Richard Eyre, who she describes as a "pretty glorious godfather", gave his consent to her dream of directing Fiona Shaw as Richard II. You can sense, though, her frustration at the English tradition of subsidising buildings rather than people, with the result that the buildings can end up running the people, who then don't end up running the art: "If I were French, I would be funded as an individual." The National Theatre is prepared to subsidise one's imagination, she points out, "as long as one's imagination is contained within the walls of the National Theatre".

The sticking point, for her, is that, unlike Bobigny (with its infinitely adaptable, 900-seater empty box of a main house) or the Berlin Schaubühne (with its three flexibly interconnecting hangar-like expanses), the National has "no versatile space of scale", the Cottesloe, the South Bank bunker's only flexible house, being limited by its 400-seat capacity. She did once try to make a Beckett piece in the big and rather beautiful paint-frame there, but the Borough of Lambeth wouldn't grant a licence. The architectural limitations of the National are something she's been brooding on while pondering a possible production of *As You Like It*, a work which offers the opportunity for magical play with changing dimensions on the move from the court to the Forest of Arden.

Bobigny could certainly co-produce with, say, Frankfurt the kind of vision of the piece she aspires to achieve. The only equivalent space

it could transfer to in London, she argues, is the Riverside Studios (where her celebrated, open-heart surgery RSC production of *Electra* was remounted). But the Riverside doesn't have the necessary producing money and the National can't afford to take on umbrella projects. The idea of having to go abroad to do a big Shakespeare play with a large group of English actors, and not being able to bring it home, she finds a dismaying prospect; and if she were to secure the foreign money to do so, "it would be a terribly, terribly unbalanced act. It means that the rest of Europe would be subsidising the National to put a show on outside itself."

It is known that the Royal Court's Stephen Daldry, regarded as one of the main contenders for the top job at the National, sounded Warner out by phone. All she will say of what passed between them is that she urged him to press ahead. It's mouth-watering to imagine what might have come from the combination of the daring and maverick producing skills of Daldry (to whom effecting major theatrical face-lifts and charming money from stone seem to come as easily as breathing) and Warner's pure, radical vision of what theatre might be. The hope is that Trevor Nunn, who has little to prove in the directing stakes, will throw his creative energies into the production side. Were he to offer Warner a permanent role at his National, she would consider it very carefully - but, she tells me, "the conversation would have to be the one we've just had".

Her staging of *Waste Land* demonstrates in abundance a strength detectable in Warner's work since the early Kick Theatre Shakespeare she directed in her twenties: an ability to illuminate the complex or the rhetorically puzzling by cutting straight to the heart of the human emotion behind it. This is evident here from the moment when Fiona Shaw steps through a tall, narrow door into the spookily lit chamber where the arms of two straining classical statues of naked men throw arches of black shadow on the back wall. Hesitating at the threshold, she delivers that famous first line, "April is the cruellest month", not as some lapidary, impersonal statement, but with the flouncing shrug and raised-eyes manner of some society preacher announcing that "Ascot is the biggest bore".

So surprising you almost laugh out loud, yet

also so penetrating, in its affected weariness and hint of inverted commas. It thrusts you straight into the world of the poem which dramatises spiritual drought, a state in which it is perfectly possible to be Oh-so-knowing about cultural reference points, while desperately lacking a living connection with any culture.

The original intention, given the setting, had been to present Shaw as a model who suddenly voices, after hours, the thoughts that had run through her brain during the enforced silence of the working day. That idea is left implicit, though, in a performance that dazzlingly encompasses the multiple identities in Eliot's poem. Sometimes, she achieves these shifts in convulsive outbursts or lightning involuntary switches of attention, as though she were the medium through which these voices were roughly forcing their way out. Her cropped hair and bony androgynous look are perfect for the timeless, suffering and ambiguous presence of Tiresias, the blind prophet who has been both genders and through whose eyes we see the squidgy, futile sex that emphasises the isolation in this wasteland. Warner had worried, at first, about whether you could take people so swiftly on such a cryptic journey through such difficult terrain. The inference she has drawn from the emotional impact it unfailingly makes is of "how slowly audiences are usually taken through things".

As some as yet unspecified date, the production will end its life in London, the city which the poem makes the paradigm of all cities and whose commuters ("The crowd flowed over London Bridge, so many / I had not thought death had undone so many") are likened to Dante's spiritual dead in the *Inferno*. The vast chambers of the new British Library, before the books are put in, is one of the sites, permission permitting, that Warner has earmarked as a possible space for the London staging. Were this to coincide with a projected revival of the *St Pancras Project* in July, it would mean that Warner was slowly colonising King's Cross. She jokes that she should set up a concurrent production in the Red Light district ("You could have the critics cruising by in cars. Do you know any cruisers?") and I suggest that she would then have become to this patch of non-theatre land what Bill Kenwright, no less, is to Shaftesbury Avenue. A distinctly piquant but not untypical piece of frontier-shifting.

shopping



bazaar

Checkout Harrods

What is it? A small Knightsbridge republic, Harrods' handsome Victorian buildings stretch over four acres of prime shopping turf. The store began life as a corner shop, but expanded rapidly, its posh moniker becoming a by-word for luxury. Now one of London's top tourist magnets, rarefied opulence is lost in a blizzard of green and gold gift merchandising.

Customers? In its heyday, Oscar Wilde and Lily Langtree ran tabs here. These days you're more likely to be buffeted by German and American tourists.

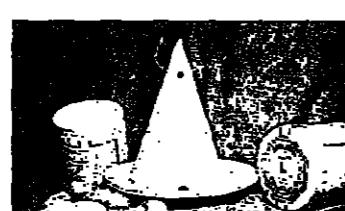
Services: Harrods promised a "cradle to grave" package with a nursery and undertaking service. The store still has a bank, pub, and interior design studio. And you can stash that troublesome fur in the store's subterranean vault.

What To Buy? If you've got the smackers, the sky's the limit: Bronze Egyptian torch holders, a snip at £5.495, perfect for that Kubla Khan look. The beautifully tiled foodhall stocks 1,200 wines and 350 cheeses, as well as fashionable safari food like Kangaroo steak (£19.80/kg) or Ostrich slicing sausage with pistachios (£2/100g).

What Not To Buy? Oysters for two at a tiny bar in the foodhall. At £100 these standard platters aren't exactly a bargain and the pressing crowds are enough to give the most determined snob indigestion.

Good thing

Merlin's Lamp
£12.95

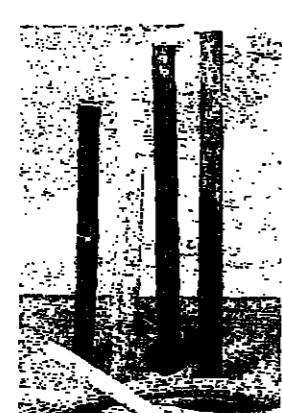


Rid your rooms of stale cigarette smoke or any other nasty smells with Green & Pleasant's stylish terracotta burner. Each conical lamp comes with a box of powdered Cade, a mystical substance which smells of juniper and rosemary and which, legend has it, Merlin used to ward off witches. Refill packs cost £3.95.

Green & Pleasant (0181-563 2349 for mail order).

Mad thing

Rain Stick - from £10.00



Total stress relief in a big stick. Rainsticks were originally intended as percussive ceremonial instruments and originated in South America. But the soothing, and frankly addictive sound of heavy rain they create has become a popular alternative to worry beads, nail biting and dog kicking as forms of stress relief. The dried cactus sticks come from Chile and exactly how they are made remains a mystery.

Tiles from the Earth (0171 720 4990).



Close call:
Tony and
baby test
the facilities

What's a man to do with a wet nappy?

One man and his baby go shopping in Cambridge. Natural it may be, simple it isn't. By Tony Kelly

I used to think shopping was easy – an hour on the pay-and-display and a quick dash from shop to shop. But since my son, Adam, was born last August I have started to see things differently. As any parent will know, a trip to the shops with a baby can soon turn into an obstinate course as you try to manoeuvre a push-chair up narrow steps and through heavy, unwilling doors. Becoming a parent certainly opens your eyes to the problems faced by people in wheelchairs.

Babies have other needs too – they have to be fed and changed regularly. For women this means finding somewhere to breast-feed in privacy and warmth; for men it means a search for a changing-room that is not women-only. You start to plan your shopping trips, not according to what you want to buy but to where the best facilities are. So the week before Easter Adam and I set out for Cambridge (our nearest large town) on a highly unscientific survey to discover which shops were the most father- and baby-friendly.

We started in Woolworths, chock-a-block with people buying Easter eggs. At eight months Adam is too young for chocolate so I decided to look at the toys on the first floor. In trying to get the push-chair upstairs we encountered a forbidding notice: "Under no circumstances may customers use the lifts without a member of staff". Why not, I asked the attendant once I had managed to locate

her. Apparently it's because the lift goes to the store room as well. Wouldn't it be easier simply to lock the store room and not make customers feel such a nuisance?

Boots is always high on the shopping list these days – nappies, baby food, cotton wool. I bought some toothpaste and decided to investigate the arrangements for parents with babies in tow. "Parents are welcome to use this facility," said a note on the door of the Mother and Baby Room. "Before entering please check with a member of the Baby Department." A quick sniff revealed no urgent need, so rather than disturb a breastfeeding mum purely in the interests of research I moved on.

Robert Sayle is the Cambridge branch of John Lewis, the co-operative department store known for its enlightened approach. For weeks I had been planning to buy a new wok, and with Adam heavily into pureed vegetables we needed a new liquidiser as well. The kitchen department is in the basement, and when I found three difficult flights of stairs but no lift I asked an assistant what I should do. "The building is too old to take a lift," she said. "I'll give you a hand down the stairs if you like. Or you can leave the baby behind the counter, or leave the chair and take the baby." An impressive range of choices, and helpful personal attention. But I wasn't going to leave my baby with a stranger and I didn't feel like carrying a baby, a liquidiser and a wok.

By now nature was calling us both so we headed for the public toilets beside the library. The baby-changing facilities were in the Ladies' so I asked the attendant in the gents' how I could use them. "You can't," was his blunt reply "but you could try the disabled toilet at the bus station." When I got there the disabled loo was locked and you needed a RADAR key (issued to registered disabled people) to get in. Once again there was a changing-room inside the Ladies', but despite a notice warning of a male cleaner in attendance I didn't feel like charging in to investigate.

I'd never been to a McDonald's but I heard you could change your baby there. This being Cambridge, where there was long resistance to the very idea of a McDonald's, it has a wood-panelled shop front and fake Gothic pillars inside. Baby-changing was advertised as being inside the disabled toilet, but the door was locked, there was no-one around and since I had no intention of buying a BigMac and fries I didn't want to draw attention to myself. Increasingly desperate, we sneaked away.

Around the corner we found what we wanted. Eaden Liley is a department store with an Italianate cafe on the top floor. Dad was ready for a cup of tea. Adam was ready for a clean nappy and this seemed just the place. At last, a baby-changing room for mums or dads, separate from the toilets, with a large changing-mat and rolls of clean

paper. But why, oh why, do you have to go down some steps to reach it?

Back in the sun, Adam was getting thirsty and fortunately we had arranged to meet his mother in the Grafton Centre. It's funny how our priorities change. A year ago I kept well away from this American-style mall, preferring the unpredictability of the city centre with its market and small shops, its buskers and *Big Issue* sellers, sunshine and rain. But now child-friendliness is what matters and the Grafton Centre is as friendly as you can get: automatic doors, ramps instead of steps, and parent-and-baby rooms in every shop from BHS and Debenhams to the Early Learning Centre. Plus, of course, no cars.

Inevitably, there is a Mothercare. If any shop should be baby-friendly it is this one – and despite the name, it is father-friendly too. Mother disappeared into the "mummy's room" to feed Adam in peace; then father took him into the large, lockable "parent's room" with its changing-mat, bottle-warmer, and a toilet which solves the eternal problem (for women especially) of how to squeeze a push-chair into a tiny cubicle.

This seems the perfect answer for both mums and dads, one that respects the rights of women to breast-feed in private and of men to go shopping with their babies. My only complaint is that you have to put up with a talking tree and a series of infuriating jingles to get there.

Tel: 0171 293 2222

classified • independent traders

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Unusual Gifts

BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES

Gifts to India & Pakistan
from only £14.99!



Village
or City-
Same
Price

Wide
Selection
of Gift
Ideas

Delivered to the door -
in around 36 hours

To order, or to obtain your free brochure:

FREEPHONE 0500 34 55 66

Love and Best Wishes (UK) Ltd

XMAS • NEW YEAR • LOHRI

ROSIE NIEPER

A selection from our brilliant ranges:



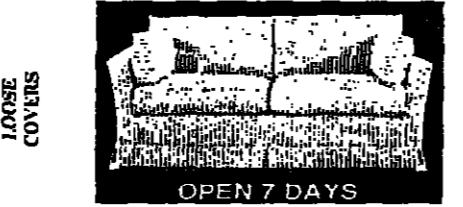
From the Girls' Talk range
see XL £10.99 inc postage each
Rosie Nieper, MF, 12 Munster
Road, Teddington, Middlesex,
TW11 9UL
or ring 0181-255 9926 (24 hrs)
FREE CATALOGUE WITH LOTS MORE DESIGNS

House and Home

FACTORY SHOP SOFAS & SOFA BEDS

From Factory to you! NO MIDDLEMAN!

Styled and made to your own requirements. Deeper seats – Higher or lower backs – Soft or firm cushions. A choice of hundreds of fabrics from Sandersons, Liberty, Monkwell and others. All work carried out by craftsmen and women. Not mass produced. We also undertake reupholstering to the public and interior designer.



POETSTYLE LTD, UNIT 1, Bayford St Industrial Centre, Mare St, (Nr Well St), Hackney, London E8 3SE. Telephone 0181 533 0915.

LOOSE
COVERS

0% FINANCE
AVAILABLE
SUBJECT TO STATUS

House and Home

NO NEED TO MOVE WITH A

Churchill's

Stairlift

CAN BE INSTALLED WITHIN

3 DAYS OF ORDER

ALL STAIRS CATERED FOR

PHONE FREE

0800

371 982

7 DAYS A WEEK 9AM - 4PM

Ask for Christine, Ann or

Jean to arrange your FREE home consultation

AMY WRITTEN QUOTATION BEATEN



OPEN 7 DAYS

MADE TO MEASURE STAIRLIFTS

Merran Fane believed in fairies. She went into business with them and together they made a fortune

By Clive Fewins



Believer:
Merran Fane
and (inset) a
sample of
stock
Photos: John
Lawrence

Merran Fane believed in Father Christmas until she was 14. She still believes in fairies. It is a belief that has strengthened in the past two-and-a-half years, as she has seen the profits of her business, The Faerie Shop, grow and grow.

"When we started the business friends thought we were mad. I think the bank manager gave it a few months," said Merran, an effervescent Australian mother of four.

After a slow start the shop, tucked away in a yard off the High Street in Marlborough, Wiltshire, made what Merran describes as "staggering profits" in its first year. "People now come from all over the country for our fairy costumes, dolls, fairy cakes, pictures, fairy nightlights, model fairies, stationery, cards, jewellery, puzzles — there are about 150 lines in all."

"For the present we have decided against another branch but we have licensed the name to a couple in Truro who are great fairy people and we are acting as consultants".

Merran started the shop when it became increasingly hard for her husband Andrew, to support the family from his business as a paper conservator, specialising in restoring watercolours. They chose Marlborough because it was the nearest town to their home.

"The idea came from my mother, who happened to mention that there are at least 20 fairy shops in Australia. I had never done any retailing before but I thought it would be a good idea to start Britain's first fairy shop."

The shop has two floors. The first floor is a gallery that encircles the building. Most of the fairy pictures are displayed here. Classic fairy artists like Cecily Mary Barker, Arthur Rackham and Molly Brett loom large. This floor also houses the most unusual feature of the shop — the fairy bower, with a fairy ring of red and white-spotted "toadstool" cushions on the floor, and walls and ceiling decorated with mystical woodland scenes. Here the Fairy Queen can be hired to tell stories at birthday parties or other special occasions.

"The children sit entranced. The boys, up to the age of about 10, go in sceptical and come out gobsmacked," said Merran. "The smaller ones often ask if they can stay the night, but point out that fairies get very mischievous in the dark and start scattering about the fairy dust that is all over the shop as well as getting up to all sorts of other naughty tricks."

There may be naughty fairies but there are no evil fairies at The Faerie Shop. "I prefer to avoid the dark side. All is light and bright and cheerful here," Merran said. "I try to make it

a place that is uplifting and upbeat, where people come to cheer up. The other day a lady came in who had just left her dog with the vet for an operation. She just wanted to relax and have a chat."

If by any chance you feel on less than effervescent form on entering the shop you will be unable to restrain yourself from responding in some way to the shocking pink and purples in the tulle fairy dresses in the window, the racks of sparkling fairy shoes, the large polystyrene Pegasus welcoming you by the door or the decor of stars and moons with fairies and castles in cloudy landscapes.

Those that respond positively ascend the magic staircase to view the gallery and fairy bower. It consists of a steel spiral swathed in branches of the contorted willow tree (*salix contorta*) for which the Fanes advertised in a local newspaper, before Andrew went out with a saw to the garden of the respondent.

"Most of the purchases are by adults for children," Merran said. "However we have our fair share of adult believers, like the lady from Hampshire who recently spent three hours in the shop and left having signed a cheque for £650."

"Of course we do get a handful of customers who want to fall about laughing over it all, but I usually manage to take them down a different path," Merran said. "We also get some gay couples who like the masks and the jewellery. They also love the ornaments we sell."

"However to me the most important thing is that by bringing back the fairies into people's lives we are fulfilling a need. As a little girl I found the world of Disney was magic. Today the whole idea has been merchandised and pummelled to death."

"We are trying to recreate this sense of childhood magic and mystery. I think this is tremendously important in an age of which poor little innocents are so often bombarded with violence and the horrors of war."

"We feel there is a need for shops like this right across Britain in order to put a sense of wonderment back into the lives of modern children. We looked at London but it was too expensive. Franchising is not the answer either. The shop is too much a projection of my own character. You can't put that into a franchising manual."

"Besides this is now more than a business. I can't have anybody running a branch of The Faerie Shop. It is too much of a responsibility."

The Faerie Shop, 22 Hugheenden Yard, High Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire, SN8 1LL. Tel: 01672 515995. For a free mail order catalogue, tel 01672 871001.

The thing about Travel Accessories

You're in an airport. It doesn't really matter which airport, because in their essential details airports are all the same: they are designed that way to reduce culture shock and help travellers passing through to feel as though they haven't really got off the plane at all.

You've checked in the requisite couple of decades early, courtesy of the IRA and ETA, and now you have time to kill. McDonald's is full of depressed-looking people in vest T-shirts, baseball caps and bum bags. The amusement arcade is full of drunks, as is the English-style pub. All the plastic bucket seats are occupied by angry families. Once you've exhausted the pile of Jeffrey Archer books and copies of *Bravo Two Zero* in the newsagent, swallowed some Nurofen in the chemist, tried out the lipsticks in the Body Shop, there is only one alternative open to you: travel accessories.

The thing about travel accessories is that they prove just how deeply ingrained is the human urge to shop. Travel, however much you like it, is unsettling: it is an experience that contains the seeds of chaos and is one of those times when you have virtually no control over your environment, like being in hospital or signing on at the DHSS. Shopping is a way of re-exerting that sense of control. And the fact that a group of smart companies has tapped into that primal urge to rip you off hardly matters.

A good travel accessory has to have the following characteristics: it must be easily made in grey or white plastic; it must make people go "oh, that's a good idea" when they see it; it must be firmly packaged in a card stapled to plastic so the consumer can't get it out and feel the quality until after they have laid over their money; its 300 per cent mark-up must make it fall within the price range of £6.95 to £8.95 so that the consumer buys more than one object; and it either never quite fulfills its purpose or breaks the second time it's used.

Face it: if you haven't already bought an adaptor plug before you get to the airport, that probably means you don't have any need for it. And what about those handy ways of carrying your money to avoid the notorious pickpockets that infest every town that's not the one you live in? They either show under your clothes, are impossible to get to without completely disrobing, or made of a material that causes sweat rash. Those pots of mosquito-repellent wipes lose their tops in your handbag and turn into extremely high-priced hankies. Neck pillows, which themselves are a wonderful invention, are always constructed with seams that spring a leak when you deflate them.

We continue, none the less, to keep buying them. Gatwick Airport has a higher per capita consumer spend than Alton Towers. One should, of course, commend companies whose entrepreneurial spirit has risen to this challenge, but isn't it ironic that, if it weren't for the threat from terrorist groups whose main gripe include economic exploitation, there would be virtually no one in Europe who owned a handy folding toothbrush in a plastic case complete with a tiny tube of dentifrice?

Serena Mackesy

AUCTIONS

Bonhams presents an important but virtually unknown name — Kenkichi Tomimoto — at its contemporary ceramics sale, Wednesday and Thursday (6pm). The Japanese artist was taught to throw pots by the grandfather of British studio pottery, Bernard Leach.

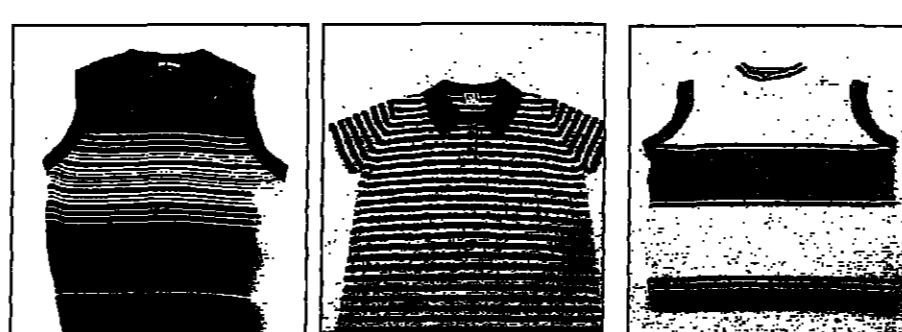
Hitherto, mention of Leach and Japan has conjured only the name Shoji Hamada, who was Leach's inspiration during his 11 year stay in the country from 1909. But it was in Tokyo in 1912 that "Tom" used Leach's wheel to make his first pot.

There are pots by Hamada at most Bonhams auctions but Tom's are scarce and sought after by collectors. This sale has 11 pieces of his. There is an exquisite 5-inch high white octagonal lidded pot of 1935 estimated at £1,800-£2,500 and a set of five porcelain dishes with red circles enclosing blue-painted landscapes that he gave to Bernard and Janet Leach as a wedding present.

Estimated £6,000-£8,000, they are from Janet Leach's outstanding collection of Dame Lucie Rie, who died last year, having achieved the reputation of Britain's greatest potter. Bernard Leach's sepiia pen and wash drawing of a dew pond on the South Downs, est. £1,200-£1,800, belonged to her.

For those with limited funds who share her eye for promising pots, an

Six of the best stripes



1 Fresh Connection, £30. Sleeveless, brown tank top with orange, buttermilk and blue stripes. A matching cardigan is also available. A neat shape that can be dressed up or down. From branches of French Connection nationwide. Enquiries: 0171-580 2507.

3 TSE, £139. Chocolate and ecru stripe, short-sleeved polo-style knit, with collar and buttons. Very simple and relaxed, a good classic look. Available from TSE cashmere at Harvey Nichols, Brompton Road, London SW1 and Liberty, Regent Street, London W1. Enquiries: 0171-377 5335.

5 Basis, £24.99. Crew neck, sleeveless tank top in white, lime green and orange. Has a Lyca content to retain its shape. Would look great teamed with white jeans and sandals. Available from branches of Oasis nationwide. Enquiries: 0171-377 5335.



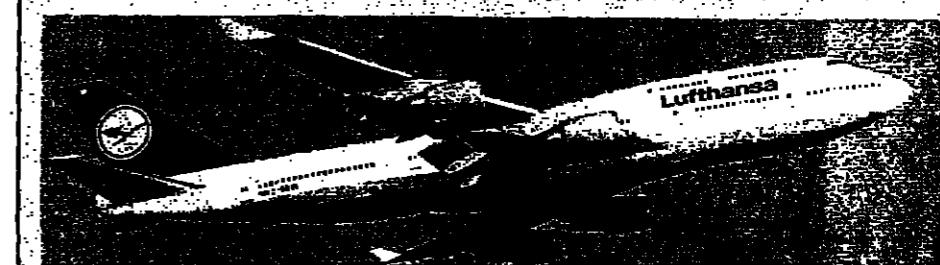
2 Clements Ribeiro, £247. 100% cashmere top in red, brown, turquoise, black and white stripes. A cardigan is also available to make up a twinset. This has been a popular look among the fashion cognoscenti and is sure to fly out of the shops. From Liberty, Regent Street, London W1 and Matches, Richmond and Wimbledon.

4 The Scotch House, £140. Mint and black sleeveless sweater in 100% cashmere. A great buy for all seasons, wear with bare arms in summer and under a jacket in winter. Available from The Scotch House, Brompton Road, London SW1 and Regent Street, London W1. Enquiries and mail order: 0171-581 2151.



6 John Smedley, £67. Long-sleeved striped top in buttermilk, pistachio and blue in 100% sea-island cotton. A very thin knit of beautiful quality. From S Fisher, 22-23 Burlington Arcade, London W1. Enquiries and mail order: 0171-580 5075.

2 for 1 Lufthansa flights with THE INDEPENDENT



Today is the final day of our 2 for 1 flight offer. We've got together with Lufthansa, the award-winning German airline, to give readers a superb deal on flights to 131 destinations from the Lufthansa global network, with departures from London, Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow.

You can choose from a range of destinations throughout Europe, Asia and the Pacific, North and South America, Africa and the Middle East.

Many flights require a transfer en route to the chosen destination, but Lufthansa make it easy, with most connections taking around 45 minutes in Frankfurt and 35 minutes in Munich.

You must spend a minimum of three nights in European and five nights in Intercontinental destinations.

HOW TO QUALIFY

Simply collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven we have published. The final token, Token 7 is printed today.

Complete the application form which was printed in Thursday's paper. Attach your tokens and send to: Independent/Lufthansa Offer, Fenton Way, Basildon, Essex SS15 6SL, to arrive no later than 30 April 1996.

If your favoured option is unavailable Trailfinders will try to suggest an alternative. All bookings must be made at least 7 working days before your first departure date to ensure ticket delivery.

Flight tickets will be issued only after payment and surrender of your 2 for 1 voucher. There is no facility to provide tickets at the departure airport.

All travel must start no earlier than 22nd April 1996 and no later than 30th June 1996. All travel must be completed by 31st July 1996.

For queries, please call the promotion enquiries helpline on 0345 252525 between 9am and 5pm including weekends and public holidays.

Terms and conditions are as previously published.

HOW TO BOOK

Decide upon your 2 for 1 departure airport, destination and dates of travel. Fill out the booking request form in your information pack.

Then post or fax your completed booking request form to Trailfinders (ABTA 69701 and V0989), our appointed booking agent. You will find full details of their address and fax numbers in your fulfil-



THE INDEPENDENT

TELEVISION

999 (BBC1)

Michael Buerk knows all about rescues; 999 saved his career. By Jasper Rees

Michael Buerk delivered probably the most influential news report in broadcasting history. A bit like Neil Armstrong or, more parochially, Geoff Hurst, he carries the knowledge that nothing he does will ever match the impact made by one day's work in Ethiopia. It can't be the lightest burden to lug into the office every day: no longer out in the field, he leans against the fence admiring the greener grass beyond it.

This explains his touching fidelity to 999. The catastrophes of which it tells have all already happened, some of them several years before. Terrifying for the participants, they have been tamed for our entertainment, packaged into a consumable narrative complete with dire portents and a cathartic ending.

When 999 first drew accusations of sensationalism, Buerk leapt to its defence, less, you sense, out of belief in the product than out of gratitude for the rescue operation it performed on his own career. For five series now it has been getting him out of the news room. Television presenters down on their luck would be strongly advised to send off for a 999 Careersaver Video Pack listing how the rescue was performed.

First of all, 999 teaches presenters to BE ALARMIST. Whether reporting from an Ethiopian drought or a suburban kitchen, Buerk's vocal role is always to sound as if he's just peeped round the corner and can see death lying in wait. But don't try this at home: it's unsafe to talk like this unless you're in front of a camera.

It helps to DRESS THE PART. For a report on a sailing accident in which a yachtswoman was trapped underwater, our intrepid presenter is got up like a marine commando in tight black polo neck. For the maritime safety-hints section he sensibly straps himself into a life jacket. But the *piece de resistance* is the miner's helmet with lamp.

On the news all Buerk's hands are allowed to do is shuffle bits of paper, but on 999 they SAW THE AIR. This is best illustrated in the piece about the tree surgeon who inadvertently performed surgery on his own leg with a machine for grinding tree stumps. As Buerk impresses on us that this is "a pretty powerful piece of equipment", his right hand performs light staccato jabs at it, as if afraid to get too near.

His most expressive gesture accompanies the words, "Make sure you're properly trained." The left hand, palm down, goes up and down in a slow motion, as if administering a reassuring pat on the head to a large dog. Or a seated viewer.

THEATRE Lady Chatterley's Lover, The Cockpit, London

So did the earth move? Adrian Turpin watches the first adaptation of DH Lawrence's controversial novel to hit the London stage since 1961



No ice cubes or baby oil: Connie Chatterley (Simone Lakhbib) and Oliver Mellors (Peter Tate)

Photograph: Stuart Morris

Hard cases make bad law. And, if *Lady Chatterley's Lover* is anything to go by, bad books make good law. Without the obscenity trial of 1960, the story of Connie Chatterley's passion for the gamekeeper Mellors would be just another minor DH Lawrence novel, wedged on academics' bookshelves between *Aaron's Rod* and *The Trespasser*, and probably unopened since 1963 (or whenever else it was that sexual intercourse began).

The plot is paper thin, the language pripically bloated, and the characters little more than ciphers for the author's kooky quasi-religious beliefs about sex and class. The question Britain's first stage adaptation of the novel for 35 years begs isn't "Why wait so long?" but "Why bother at all?"

Well, it must have some appeal. Fusion Theatre's production ran five months in Toronto, before reaching the Cockpit. Why? A cynic might suggest the hearty on-stage nudity (the promise of which has been shamelessly used to hype the show) and the novel's titanic fame. That, though, would be unfair. This is, for the most part, a well-cast, well-written, well-directed production, Marshall Gould's adaptation wisely avoids the temptation to add its own layer of fantasy and phantasmagoria Ken Russell-style on to the original. The scenes are short to the point of being staccato. Connie's marriage, the outbreak of war, Sir Clifford Chatterley's confinement to a wheelchair are done with in the first 10 minutes. By the time Mellors enters, strolling in the woods with his gun, proceedings already have a certain pace to them.

Poor Mellors. Or rather, the poor actor playing him, who must cope with some of the silliest dialogue known to English literature. Anyone who can say, "We fucked a flane into being and for me it is the only thing on Earth", without making an audience snigger, probably justifies the admission fee on his own. Peter Tate manages this and more. At first I had my doubts, when he seemed not so much noble savage as plain nobie, too posh for a collier's son. But you soon warm to him, and after a while Mellors's self-conscious switches between Derby dialect and King's English seem utterly natural, as does the character's unlikely blend of tenderness and animal sensuality.

Perhaps there aren't too many surprises or revelations, but there is one splendid scene in which Mrs Bolton, the village woman who tends Clifford (an excellent Carolyn Jones), plays chess with him, while Mellors seduces Connie. It's genuinely odd. Tristan and Isolde play chess in the legend, as do Ferdinand and Miranda in *The Tempest*. But here the young lovers are replaced by an impotent aristocrat and a woman who acts like his nanny. The other early, semi-clothed love scenes could benefit from a touch more of this strangeness. Only once the clothes come off do sparks finally fly, and the sex itself is surprisingly watchable: a vast improvement on Hollywood's ice-cube and baby-oil variety, even if it does have Lawrence's coal-smudged fingerprints all over it.

To 4 May. The Cockpit, London NW8 (0171-402 5081)

CLASSICAL

National Youth Orchestra

Nicholas Williams admires an energetic, polished conclusion to a Bruckner series

Time and tide wait for no man, but in Bruckner symphonies time certainly passes more slowly than usual. As for tides, a flood of gathering energy in these works suggests inexorable forces harnessed by the composer in music that is itself a natural emanation. Beyond the stars, the crystal spheres sing eternal Bruckner Adagios.

Back on earth, the National Youth Orchestra played the Eighth Symphony at the Barbican on Thursday and found something of their own to say about this intense and complex masterpiece. In the past, their most challenging assignments have demanded and received both discipline and mature knowledge of style and substance; which is probably why the London Symphony Orchestra invited them to take over the final concert of their Bruckner-Mozart series. Coached by LSO principals at a recent residency and conducted by János Fürst, the young players could be safely entrusted not just to close the show, but to add the hallmark of their own polished enthusiasm.

In the event, there was a certain amount of getting down to business in the first movement, not helped by a platform introduction that destroyed the essential mood of silence prior to such an extensive journey. The opening musical statement lacked due sense of primal mystery in consequence, though the ensemble's concentration and desire to transcend the notes was plain to see. But Adrian Wilson's oboe playing soon became an inspiration, while the flutes remained leaders of the pack until that breathtaking moment where the music falls away, leaving one of their number incanting pale arpeggios above a queasy abyss.

Fürst's sure, committed grasp of the music included a special rapport with the strings, though he was also sensitive to the needs of other orchestral departments. Strings, horn and clarinet wove deft patterns to begin the trio section of the Scherzo, though later they were a little too forward in their sense of climax. But everything came right in the slow movement, its main theme conceived without Mahlerian angst, and with the sudden harmonic swiftness at its end, plus three harps, a place where you hold your breath as the music looked upwards. From here the musical tide flowed inexorably through to the thrilling flourish of percuSSION and the moment of reprise, the plain opening chord now set in a garland of orchestral flourishes. The finale was broadly paced – a risk that Fürst might have lived to regret in the already generous measure of the Haas edition of this work, but which came off magnificently.



We crowd round the winner. 'Any advice for bald people out there?'

It is Thursday, and the grand climax – after four long, arduous years – of the Hair Grower of the Year competition. Today, one man, deemed to have most successfully grown his hair back from baldness, will receive a check for £10,000 from Radio 2's Ken Bruce at a star-studded media event at the Savoy. And what a long, crazy four years it's been. Since 1992, hundreds of contestants from across the country have been drinking 1½ litres of water while hanging upside-down by their feet and thinking non-stressful thoughts. And the finalists cer-

tainly look non-stressed. Still bald, admittedly, but non-stressed.

"Think of them as like the Wright brothers," says hair-growing swengali Andy Bryant. "The Wright brothers only flew for 59 seconds. But they showed that it could be done."

"But they're still bald," I say.

"No they're not," says Andy.

"Look."

He shows me a "before" photograph of James Oldham. He looks semi-bald. Then he points to a semi-bald man in the crowd.

"That's James now," he says.

"Still semi-bald," I mutter.

"Half a centimetre on average!" says James. "That's how much his hair has grown back. The tip of the nose to the hairline measurement has remained a constant 14.5cm, but the width of the bald crown has reduced from 8.5cm to 6cm. And that's something."

And I guess it is, when they said it couldn't be done. But four years for half a centimetre, when a trip to the wig shop takes mere minutes, if they're so hair self-absorbed... Who can understand people sometimes?

But today, the nation's media are at least trying to understand. I rather thought I'd be the only journalist here, and would consequently be compelled to make awkward small-talk with deluded bald men for hours. But the room is packed. There are

are giggling like children underneath their hands; well – I can't think of anyone in the world I'd like to be less than a grand-finalist in the Hair Grower of the Year contest. The assertively uninterested competitors suddenly start to appear decidedly tense, and the terrible irony could be that, after four years of hanging upside-down and eating the right sorts of vegetables, all that good work could be undone by one high-profile media day at the Savoy, followed by an awful, ignoble evening of being the funny story at the end of the news.

The winner turns out to be James Oldham, and we crowd around and pretend to be genuinely excited.

"How do you feel?"

"Great."

"Any advice for bald people out there?"

"I did it, and so can you."

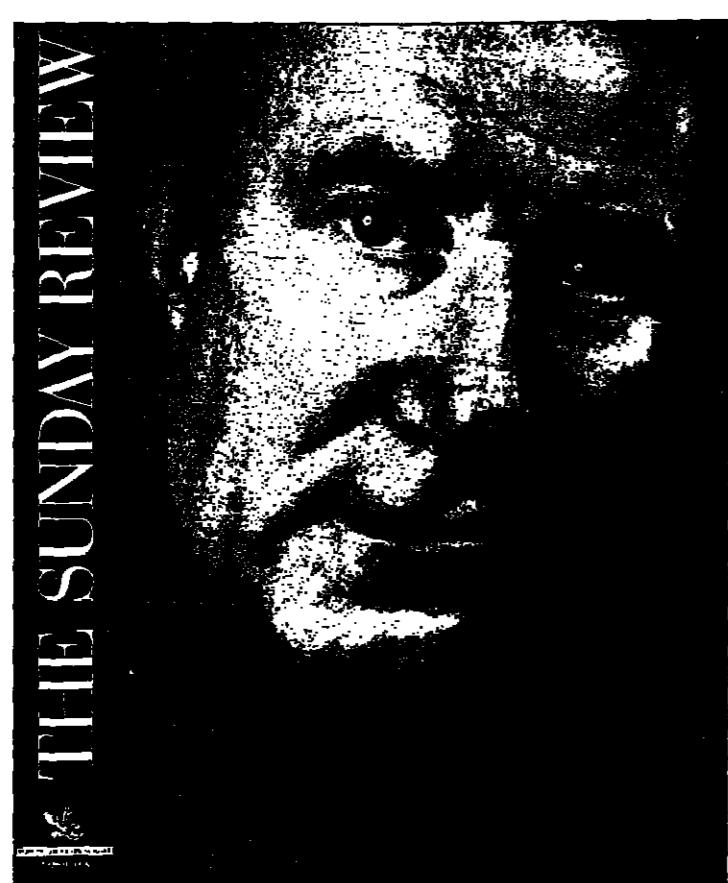
"What's the secret of your success?"

"No stress, hanging upside-down, drinking 1½ litres of water, and eating the right sorts of vegetables."

"Any message for people with wigs?"

"I did it and so can you."

And so on.



THE SUNDAY REVIEW

The show that didn't go on... When Rupert Murdoch gave Andrew Neil his own American TV show, there was talk of a hard-hitting challenge to conventional news values. Zoë Heller watched it all go horribly wrong

Plus: Andy Beckett meets Orlan, the self-mutilating artist

And Peter Conrad interviews Roddy Doyle

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



David Benedict

overview

THE MOVIE MIGHTY APHRODITE

Woody Allen's latest comedy is about Lenny (Allen) who tracks down a hooker (Mira Sorvino), the mother of his adopted son. Allen newcomers include Claire Bloom and Helena Bonham Carter as Allen's screen wife.

Adam Mars-Jones found the film "patronising" with nothing but "middle-brow competence". "Neither enough laughs nor insights to hold the attention," complained *Time Out*. "Professionally, Woody has the same pre-occupations as Joe Eszterhas, screenwriter of *Basic Instinct* and *Showgirls*," observed the *Spectator*. "Allen goes into freakish with this comedy of unclear intentions," agreed the *FT*. "Sweet success... we should still watch with gratitude," averred the *Times*. "Fatty good value, and expertly made," agreed the *Guardian*.

THE OPERA NABUCCO

Verdi's third opera arrives at Covent Garden in a production by the talented Tim Albery (with designs by Anthony McDonald), which ruffles feathers at its Welsh National Opera premiere in September.

Stephen Walsh found the original production "a muddle", but much of the staging has since been toned down. "The boozing sadly obscured the magnificence of the performance... gripping singing and acting," cheered the *Guardian*. "This evening of rare vocal splendour," praised the *Times*. "Samuel Ramey brought distinction to the evening by ignoring all that was going on around him," asserted the *FT*. "Stop paying show-offs to insult talented singers by splattering their half-wit egos over well-loved works," spluttered the *Standard*, predictably.

THE EXHIBITION GOMA

Julian Spalding has created four floors and 24,000 square feet of what claims to be the largest collection of contemporary art outside London, housed in the revamped Royal Exchange building.

Ian Gale was incensed: "A shambles... a hopeless farce... must be taken in hand before it is too late." "An aesthetic and intellectual disaster. The only good thing about GOMA is its location," agreed the *Independent on Sunday*. "A very quirky and personal selection... interesting and provocative," said the *Times*. "Witty and, yes, accessible... not enough that is first-rate," noted the *Telegraph*. "A great addition to Glasgow," said the *Sunday Telegraph*. "Glasgow deserves better... one man's folly," concluded the *Guardian*.

Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow (0141-331 1854) Mon-Sat 10-5pm Sun 11-5pm. Admission free.

91 mins. Cert: 15. On release across London and across the country from 26 April.

on view

Sorvino bagged the Best Supporting Actress Oscar. Good as she is, it's not really enough.

There were cheers as well as boos. Several critics moaned about Albery but praised the performances. Surely the two are connected?

The annual forecast was 300,000 visitors, but more than 50,000 have been in just two weeks. You can fool some of the people some of the time.

Stylized

Jelly is 50

It's out there: the art we love and hate

Tempers are already fraying over the plan to build a giant steel angel in Gateshead. It's the same the whole world over, says Jonathan Glancey. From Soviet mother figures to Jesus of Rio, there's nothing we like more than public art to get in a stew about — that's what it's there for

What have the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower, Jesus of Rio and Anthony Gormley got in common? Size, that's what. Well, size and Art. The Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower and Jesus of Rio are three of the biggest works of public art the world has to show. Anthony Gormley, the British sculptor and winner of the Turner Prize, is about to enter this international Big Art Club by casting a vast angel that will spread its voluminous metal wings beside the furiously fast carriageways of the A1 at Gateshead.

Naturally, there are those who think Gormley's idea gormless. Waste of money. Stalinist stuff from Arts Council commissars. Better things to spend it on. Who's going to see it anyway? Motorists should have their eyes on the blasted road, not on some arty angel! Bark. Bark. Bark.

In all likelihood, Gormley's angel will become popular and, if not loved, a much-sought-out marker on the long grind up and down the A1. Children, aesthetes, fast-lane reps and even the boys in the blue-flashing "jam sandwiches" will look out for it and otherwise use its other-worldly presence as a point of reference. Doubtless, those seeking thrills will try to shin up the angel's torso and bungee-jump from its wingtips. Doubtless, too, its mighty feet will be sprayed with graffiti, both mindless and heartfelt. I like it already and all I have seen is a photomontage in this week's newspapers.

Like all vast works of public art, the Gormley angel is bound to be controversial. The leading critics of the day, as well as a livid public, decided to hate the Eiffel Tower when it opened in 1889 as the sculptural highlight of the great Paris international exhibition of that year. They caved in soon enough and the wonderful and all but useless tower has long been a symbol of Paris of France and of our love of outsized monuments, even though we feel we ought to rail against them on grounds of money and taste.

Those lucky enough to have seen Rio spreading from beneath Christ's welcoming arms or the devastating Victory monument on the edge of Kiev will know, instinctively, that great public art has the power to move us in ways that we do not always like to admit to. A 190ft titanium statue representing the Soviet Motherland (but known locally as "Zheleznyaya" or "steel wench") may seem like kitsch on an unnecessarily heroic scale; yet the energetic form of this gigantic metal maiden reminds citizens and visitors alike both of the 200,000 Kievanites who died defending the Ukrainian capital during the Great Patriotic War of 1941-45 and of the confusing twists and turns of political history that have since turned a failed "workers' paradise" into a free-falling free market.

Such sculptures are soul-stirring, even if something in us warns us that by their very scale and ambition they are somehow dangerous and almost certainly bad art.

But, again, who has watched the sun rise over the Great Pyramid of Cheops and not been moved? I have nothing but contempt for General Franco, but what confusing thoughts a naturally rebellious Catholic experiences when faced with the cloud-piercing Cross that the spiteful dictator had erected with slave labour at the cold heart of his Valley of the Fallen outside Madrid. And what are Albanians to make, today, of the hideous statue of the Motherland that looms over Tirana? In the long days of Enver Hoxha's dictatorship, before it ended in 1987, the one and only place



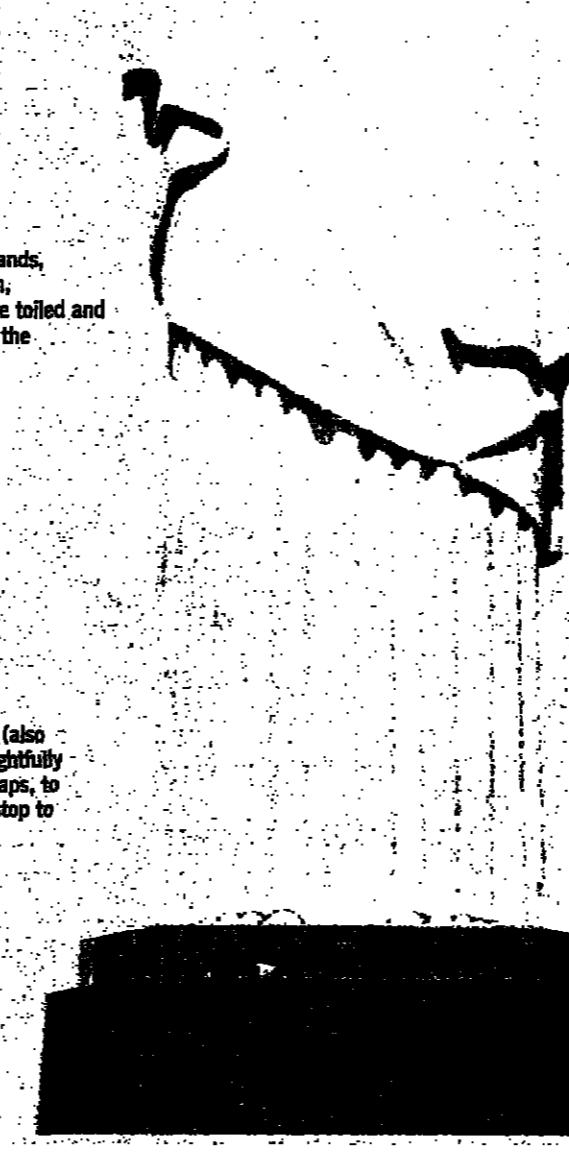
Birmingham



Broadgate, London



George Segal's rush-hour crowd (also known as The Glums) are a delightfully miserable bunch designed, perhaps, to make commuters in Broadgate stop to laugh at themselves



Milton Keynes



Yorkshire Moors



Henry Moore's King and Queen ruled the Yorkshire Moors for nearly 30 years until some artless nutcase decided to knock their heads off; a problem for public art in lonely settings



Jesus of Rio: the city spreads beneath his welcoming arms

Albanians could gather freely in any number was at the voluminous hem of Mother Albania's skirts. This Balkan matriarch is both loved and despised, at once a symbol of tyranny and of freedom.

Close up, many great works of public art do not stand up to expert criticism. The Statue of Liberty is justly popular, but quite potty as a work of art. The crossed scimitars clenched in Saddam Hussein's own vastly magnified hands that welcome (is that the right word?) visitors to Baghdad are unforgettable, but verge on the extreme edge of unlovable kitsch.

I think we like to love and hate monumental public sculpture. Without it, the world is a scholarly art critic, pub-bore ("I don't know a lot about art...") and the rest of us would be a less interesting place. Public art on this scale stirs up latent emotions, causes reaction, nourishes the pages of travel brochures and guide-books. More than even their great temples and cathedrals, we remember world cities, and even whole regions, by their monuments, from the faces of US presidents carved into Mount Rushmore in North Dakota to strikingly designed electricity pylons striding across boundless landscapes. Public art matters.

The reason that pub bores get so hot under the collar about the idea of spending on public art a minuscule proportion of the money we spend building arterial roads is that, while they can understand tarmac and car's-eyes, art is still something of a threat, the stuff of shamans, incomprehensible waffle on smart talk shows and indecipherable writing in low-circulation magazines.

What they should get hot under the collar about is not public art itself, but the poor quality and low ambition of so much of the stuff that has littered public spaces over the past 20 years. All too often public art is no more than a form of chintzy, cheery wallpaper pasted over the cracks in the design of ugly city centres, a half-embarrassed attempt at redeeming the irredeemable banality of superstores, office complexes and shopping centres. This is the sort of art that Sir Norman Foster once memorably likened to "lipstick on the face of the gorilla". Or what others have, a little unkindly, called the "token Henry Moore syndrome".

The money spent on making beautiful the infrastructure of our towns and cities. Better a fleet of handsome city buses — rolling sculpture — thoughtfully designed and beautifully maintained than a bronze boy hanging on to the tail of a bronze dolphin in a fountain decorated with discarded soft-drink cans.

There are several bodies, most notably those such as the Public Arts Commissions Agency and the Public Arts Development Trust, working intelligently and energetically to bring new art into popular focus in Britain's streets and squares. They have a long way to go. Too much public art remains little more than a toy, a pretification of impossibly ugly places carried out in "the chairman's wife chose the boardroom curtains" sort of way.

What people will respond to, and dramatically so, from the bore to the open-minded, is sculpture on a scale that makes an impact, causes us to think and, hopefully, delights or moves us too.

We are often too apologetic, over-reticent in Britain, and make much weedy public art as a result. Anthony Gormley has got the right idea: demonic or delightful, his Angel of the A1 should be more welcome to tomorrow's motorists than any number of Happy Eatlers, Little Chefs and artful signs to edge-of-town superstores.

The context in which one sees a picture matters; the proper response is to think about its effects on you

"You couldn't make it up" read an exasperated headline in the *Daily Mirror* this week. The item it surrounded was very short and it reported that a nude woman had been "axed from a vintage wine label — because American feminists thought it was offensive". The story was picked up elsewhere, too, where it also served as a neat symptom of political correctness. The *Times* gave a few more details in its Diary: it seemed that Mouton-Rothschild had been obliged to withdraw 30,000 bottles of its 1993 vintage from America after objections to the Balthus drawing of a naked young girl which appeared on the label (Mouton-Rothschild has invited artists to decorate its labels since 1945). The Baroness was said to be surprised by the reaction: "The fragile and mysterious girl Balthus has drawn," she said, "seems to hint at some secret promise of undiscovered pleasure."

She does indeed. Clearly not a "woman", as the *Mirror* had described her, the pre-pubescent girl lies back, arms behind her head, and legs slightly parted. It is not an obscene pose, but it is not a modest one either (you could readily find its equivalent in any top-shelf magazine). Her impassive gaze is directed at the viewer, suggesting that she knows she is being observed and chooses not to conceal herself. To say that it is sexually inviting would be too crude, far cruder than the drawing itself. But that the picture stands on a border between innocence and experience is undeniable.



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

There was a certain oddity to the complacent press reaction to this story — the general assumption that the feminists were on the march again — particularly in a week that offered a very different account of the power of images to disturb and affront. Reporting the victory of an independent newsagent in his battle not to be sent unsolicited soft-core porn by WH Smith, most newspapers were broadly sympathetic — this wasn't political correctness, it seems, but a moral stand, a proper argument about where and by whom such images should be seen. The superficial distinction is obvious — one was art (to be defended) and the other was porn (indefensible). But looked at more closely the distinction offers an X-ray of the prevailing picture.

Usually this century's increasing liberality about artistic subject matter is read as a history of diminishing prudery. Manet's *Olympia* shocked its original audience but could now happily decorate a greetings card. But it would be a mistake to see this as the triumph of aesthetic values over pinched morality, a protection of art against improper advances. It actually records a retreat, a diminishment of the power of the drawn or painted image. To

make something safe can mean two things: to protect it from danger or, as in the case of defused bombs, to render it harmless. It's the latter that applies in the case of art.

Some of this is because photographs have greedily absorbed our anxiety about depiction, have occupied all of the limited attention that we can give to such matters (in a finite world we must choose what worries us — and in this century photography has presented a more pressing case). The effect has been that hand-made images, by contrast, have come to carry an idea of innocence or detachment from the real world, that world in which incitement or appetite can so easily smear the purity of our contemplation. At the same time there has been an accompanying breakdown of any sense of a hierarchy of the spaces in which we look at images, from the private salon to the public gallery, from solitary inspection to mass observation.

Last year, for example, Gustave Courbet's *L'Origine du Monde*, an explicit open-crotch painting of a woman's genitals (head and limbs out of frame), went on show in Paris. It was protected by bullet-proof glass and a permanent guard, not, presumably, because it was thought that it might offend art-lovers, but for fear of feminist protest. Courbet himself, though, would probably have been astounded that a picture commissioned for the private collection of a Turkish eroticophile would eventually be displayed before a mixed gathering of men, but a perverse sort of victory.

women and children. "Today, we cannot remain indifferent to a painting of such intensity," said the French culture minister, but the untroubled display proved precisely the opposite. There were no protests — the inert gas of connoisseurship had rendered the picture impotent.

In one way, then, those who objected to the Balthus drawing on the wine bottle actually pay more honour to his art than those who think the fuss is just a laughable symptom of a new prudery. They at least recognise that the context in which one sees a picture matters, and that the proper response to art is to think about its effects on you, not simply glance and pass on.

It's relatively easy, in fact, to restore some sense of this. Imagine that the *Times* and the *Mirror* had learnt that the manager of a children's care home had decorated the interior with reproductions of Balthus's child nudes. The first assumption would not be, I think, that this was simply an expression of good taste or a laudable attempt to bring some beauty into young lives. As it happens, Balthus's paintings are not pornography but they are not simply pretty either — they touch on a peculiarly volatile subject for our society, the sensuality of children, and, unlike Mouton-Rothschild, they do not travel well — they need to be seen in a place where proper attention can be paid to them. In that sense, the Mouton-Rothschild story isn't an account of a defeat for art, but a perverse sort of victory.

GLYNDEBOURNE

17 May - 25 August 1996
Personal booking 20 April. Telephone booking 22 April

Theodora, Così fan tutte

Standing room only. Possible returned seats at short notice

Yevgeny Onegin, Arabella, Lulu, Ermione

Some tickets available at £110 for late July/August performances

Earlier dates - possible returned seats at short notice

The London Philharmonic Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment

40 Standing room places @ £10
for all performances on sale from 20 April

Box Office 20 April open 10am - 6pm
Telephone (from 22 April) 01273 813813
Open daily 10am - 8pm Sundays 10am - 6pm

DONMAR

AT THOMAS NEAL'S

MERCURY

BURGESS BY

SAMUEL BECKETT

Directed by RAYMOND

SHILLING & THERESA CLE

Reviewed by SUSAN LEIGH

Lighting by CHRIS BOYNT

Sound by PHILIP O'BRIEN

JUN - SAT 8pm

SUN 7.30pm

UNTIL 25 MAY

BOX OFFICE:

0171 369 1722

CAST:
ALUN ARMSTRONG • STEPHEN DILANE • HARRY JONES • EILEEN NICHOLAS

APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST



ENDGAME

How to keep Mum

Carol Thatcher's portrait of her father reveals a bumbling little Engander with a surprising streak of clear-sightedness and an instinct for word damage limitation. By Robert Winder

One of the greatest mysteries of the Thatcher years was how the Prime Minister's husband managed to avoid the kind of sarcastic opprobrium that is routinely heaped onto female political consorts such as Glengis Kinnoch, Hillary Clinton or Cherie Blair. Denis Thatcher was, after all, a senior industrialist, a union-busting and socialist-hating director of a multinational company (Burman Oil); and, as he himself couldn't help pointing out, he knew more about economics than half the Cabinet. Yet for over a decade the media was happy to portray him as nothing more than a Pootisher, pink-gin-and-golf bore in a silly hat, practising his seven-iron on the lawn at Chequers while his wife dealt with the fate of nations indoors.

No one ever suggested that he was pulling strings, calling shots or weaving tricky webs behind the scene; *no one* ever felt that the country had fallen into the uncouth hands of a malign, right-wing Rasputin with a sinister line in persuasive pillow-talk. On the contrary, he never seemed like anything more than a long-suffering, henpecked old fogey who didn't want much out of life, just a kip in front of the rugby and a sharpener before lunch.

Obviously it helped that Mrs Thatcher rarely gave any sign of being susceptible to special pleading from anyone – let alone some dimwit husband. And *Private Eye* played its part, contributing enjoyably to the depiction of Denis as a buffoon through the "Dear Bill" letters. But Denis Thatcher himself, as this surprisingly crisp biography by his daughter makes plain, can take most of the credit for keeping himself out of harm's way. Inspired by an old maxim of his father's – "Whales don't get killed unless they shout" – he made the extremely shrewd decision to give no interviews of any sort during his wife's stay in the limelight. When he met the Duchess of York at a dinner and she "whined" about the bad press she always received, he was unsympathetic. "Ma'am," he said, "Has it occurred to you to keep your mouth shut?"

His own vow of silence was followed through with unusual resolve and attention to detail. "Never make speeches longer than four minutes," he wrote, "and prepare them very carefully to ensure that there is no possible quote. This results in the press not ever reporting that you were there at all". Many people would have resented being portrayed as such a twerp, but Denis has the last laugh here. "Remember that it is better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool," he advised one would-be consort, "than open it and remove all doubt".

Below the Parapet: A Biography of Denis Thatcher by Carol Thatcher

HarperCollins, £16.99

In one sense it is odd that the nation seemed, if anything, to pity him – as if it were automatically an indignity for a man to have a wife more powerful than himself. It was always presumed that Denis must "mind"; in fact, of course, he had one of the most interesting and lively retirements anyone could wish for, and knew it ("For 40 years I have been married to one of the greatest women the world has ever produced"). He was helped by having a clear-sighted and realistic dislike of politics in the first place. "So many politicians," he tells his daughter, "are under the misapprehension that the rest of us think all the time about politics; the truth of the matter is, the great British people don't give a damn. The only people who keep it going is the press".

This might seem jaundiced, but Mrs Thatcher was probably lucky to be married to a man with this point of view. Just imagine what she'd have been like if she'd had someone egg her on. And it allowed Denis to be more perceptive, at times, than his wife's entourage of political advisers. In one of the book's great moments of inside knowledge, Denis raises a glass to the euphoria that followed Mrs Thatcher's third election win and says, "In a year, she'll be so unpopular you won't believe it".

It is widely supposed that this book is Carol Thatcher's sneaky revenge against her mother. It is true that Mrs T. hardly

cuts a likeable figure, dashing in and out of the house without so much as a How's-your-father. But it is inevitable that a book whose aim is to restore the reputation of Denis should to some extent amplify what it was he had to put up with. As soon as Maggie became leader of the Opposition, for instance, she was assigned a security guard. Denis was the last to know. One night he returned to the house in Flood Street and a found a man he took to be a friend of Mark's. "When Margaret arrived, we started leaving and, bugger me if this chap didn't follow us out. No one told me who the hell he was."

There are numerous moments of forlorn good humour such as this. Denis was in the hotel suite when Cecil Parkinson resigned. "Margaret said to him, 'I'm very unhappy but you've no choice but to get out, otherwise the press will be at you'. He agreed. Then he mentioned that he was due to open the new Blackpool heliport and went to a commemorative plaque. Margaret said, 'Never mind that. Denis will go and do it'. I did. I pulled the string and it had

a brass plaque underneath it, which read, "Opened by the Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson..."

One of the reasons why *Private Eye* loved Denis Thatcher was because he had, not just the well-bugger-me language of the little Engander, but that he also held exactly the kind of narrow prejudices you find in the car park at Twickenham. He would refer to the inhabitants of Brixton as fuzzy-wuzzies, but would be mortified to think that he'd upset them. He was a lover of South Africa, but strikingly unimpressed by uppity, post-colonial types from elsewhere. "Who do you think is worse," he asked delegates at a Commonwealth Conference, "Sally bloody Ramaflah or Ma sodding Gandhi?". India, he thought, was "high on the buggeration factor"; and he was not impressed by the Falkland Islands on his post-victory tour. "We sure as hell didn't go there for the real estate," he said. "It's miles and miles of bugger-all".

It isn't clear, actually, that Carol Thatcher has done her father too many favours with this book. After an awful

start ("It was a U-turn of mega proportions...") she settles into a good, easy stride, and she has used her relationship cleverly. It is hardly an intimate memoir – it doesn't, in fact, feel as if Carol knows her father all that well. But she certainly knows more about his domestic life than any outsider. For some reason, she seems to find her dad's rudeness to waiters a sign of wagish charm – he liked his meat burnt and frequently accused people of giving him food that was still alive. "If I take my hand off this bird, it'll fly away," he told one poor fellow. "Take it away, kill it and cook it."

At times like this he is exactly like the man in the "Dear Bill" letters – a pompous old eccentric who disfigures his own battiness in an assumption that he is surrounded by twits. But at other times, she uncovers a streak of something so unsentimental and open that it is rather touching. "The war didn't have a traumatic effect on me," he muses, "but I think I'm an insensitive person". And what's more, by jingo, he's proud of it.

"Better to keep your mouth shut and be thought a fool!"

Photo: Rex Features



FOR LOVERS OF EXQUISITE FICTION

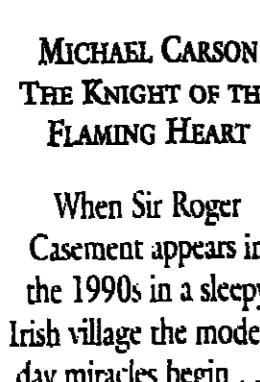
From the author of *Knowledge of Angels*



JILL PATON WALSH
A SCHOOL FOR LOVERS

Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* and a contemporary love story are ingeniously interwoven in this elegant and witty novel.

From the author of *Sucking Sherbet Lemons*



MICHAEL CARSON
THE KNIGHT OF THE FLAMING HEART

When Sir Roger Casement appears in the 1990s in a sleepy Irish village the modern day miracles begin...

A rich and poetic novel of wit, wisdom and humanity.



BLACK SWAN

Cockpits and casting couches

He was a film mogul, flyer, hermit and syphilitic. Godfrey Hodgson reads the history of Howard Hughes

When I'm gone", said Howard Hughes, dying in Acapulco with festering bedsores unattended on his back and an income of \$75,000 an hour, "the biographers are going to flock around, and I don't want them to dwell on the girls and the movies. I want to be remembered for only one thing – my contribution to aviation."

Fat chance. The biographers have flocked, and it is on the girls and the movies that they have dwelt most lovingly. Few biographies of aviators come equipped, as this one does, with a five-page list of their sexual conquests and near-misses, in alphabetical order.

This is an anthology of Hollywood's finest, from Carla Balenda ("Real name, Sally Bliss", probably platonic) by way of Joan Crawford, Bette Davis, Yvonne de Carlo, Olivia de Havilland, and Ava Gardner, all through to Jane Russell ("Mean, moody, magnificent") Lana Turner ("the Sweater Girl") and the sumptuously named debutante, Gloria Vanderbilt.

Philip Larkin was ill-informed. However long it took to catch on in Hull, in Hollywood sexual intercourse was well-established a generation before 1963. But there is nothing quite so tedious as lists of sexual conquests. Hughes's *psychopathological sexuality* is not altogether uninteresting, though, just because he was so crazy. Brown and Broeske dignify his brand of insane bullying with the term "Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder", which is as good a name as any other. Disorder it certainly was.

Hughes was a caricature of the old-style phallocrat. Although he kept company with some highly independent women, such as Ava Gardner and Katharine Hepburn, he was into imprisonment and harems. He used to have his people ship in "starlets"



Hughes: the syphilitic sultan

the fresher the better, from the Mid-West and points south. They were warehoused, coiffed, styled and given elocution lessons until ready for the imperial casting couch.

He even communicated for months on end with one of his wives, the good-natured Jean Peters, by telephone alone. He had her installed in one hangar in a Beverly Hills garden while he was living in another, and he rented six other accommodations for spics, goons, gofers and body-servants.

These creeps, most of them Mormons, supplied him with written reports on what his wife was up to ("At 8.52 am, JP ordered one enema, 2 milk and papers"). Peters had to communicate with her husband through the same creeps: "3.0am, tell Mr Hughes I'm sick and tired of waiting for him to call and I'm going to bed."

Hughes was terrified of germs. He not only insisted that everything that came near him be handled in wads of Kleenex, he issued lengthy instructions on how to pick things up with it. "If you need to lower the seat," he told Jean Peters when escorting her to the movies, "do it with Kleenex. Somewhere along the way, in spite of

Howard Hughes: The Untold Story by Brown and Broeske

Little, Brown, £20

this cleanliness fetish (which seems to have been encouraged by his over-protective mother), the authors believe that Hughes contracted syphilis. They say it had reached the tertiary stage (dementia and locomotor ataxia) by the time he was in his fifties.

The pox would account for some of the craziness of his later years, but the explanation is not wholly convincing. For one thing, although the Mormon creeps kept him in an inert state with massive doses of cocaine and valium, when it suited them (when, say, they needed him to sign some papers), they would cut off the dosage and the poor old man would perk up. They would cut his lank hair, have a barbers trim his hairy beard, cut his talon-like finger and toenails, and he would do the business, sometimes even coming up with some fancy engineering mathematics. Then they would hit him with the cocaine and valium, and it would be the hairy hermit of Acapulco – or Las Vegas or the Bahamas – all over again.

If Hughes was in some ways a tool, he also possessed something of that combination of intelligence, energy and self-centred determination we call genius. His father invented an ingenious rocket for oil drilling and Howard Jr inherited a vast income derived from Hughes Tool. But he really did make a major contribution to aviation. He was obsessed with flight from an early age, and even before he had a pilot's licence had assembled the world's biggest aerial navy to shoot the war movie, *Hell's Angels*. He had the courage of a psychopath, and went on

flying after numerous crashes, two of which did damage to his tall, lanky body that would have killed most men.

He set new records for flying across the US, then around the world. He created the airline TWA. In the Second World War, he built Hughes Electronics into the biggest supplier of weapons systems to the US navy and air force. He designed and test-flew the legendary "Spruce Goose", a giant wooden aircraft. He invented the air-to-air missile. He invented, then mass-produced, the "all-weather interceptor" fighter, and designed the navigation system for the F-102. He virtually invented the battle helicopter, and pioneered unmanned satellites.

Finally, he was involved in secret business with the CIA and other hush-hush agencies, including a scheme to lift a Soviet submarine from the bed of the Pacific. There is, too, a sense in which Watergate was "about" Howard Hughes. He gave large amounts of money to Richard Nixon, some of it undeclared cash to finance dirty tricks.

Brown and Broeske do not delve very deeply into Hughes' involvement in Watergate, nor do they unravel in any very satisfactory way his business history. They only sketch in various intrigues by the Mormon creeps to take advantage of Hughes' illnesses, natural and artificially induced, to take over his industrial empire and his vast other assets. They make a valiant effort to obey the crazy titan's dying wish and write about his contribution to aviation, but you sense their hearts are not wholly in it.

They are in their element, though, when it comes to dope and broads, machinating Mormons, and the syphilitic sultan's Hollywood harem. Read all about it!

Audiobooks



Gulliver's Travels
read by Neville Jason
Rhodes to Home
read by Gary Rhodes

If you were unenlightened as to the point of Jonathan Swift's legendary satire by Channel 4's much-hyped Easter two-part, you'll enjoy Neville Jason's measured and intelligent reading of the real thing. *Gulliver's Travels* (Naxos, 4hrs, £7.99) includes Blefescu, Laputa, Luggnagg and the Houyhnhnms as well as Lilliput and Brobdingnag adventures, and is much embellished by incidental music by Handel.

Can cookery work on tape? Much of the wince factor in *Rhodes to Home* (Reed Audio, £7.99) is a case of a perky television cook uneasy without visual prompts. Gary wastes valuable seconds insisting on how good everything is going to be, then glosses over the trickier manoeuvres involved. But this made mouth-watering listening on the way to Tesco's, and a useful booklet of ingredients is included.

Christina Hardymont

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Religion,
Poetry, Children's
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 OLD BROMPTON RD, LONDON SW7 3DO

All you need to know about the books you meant to read

by Gavin Griffiths

EVELINA (1778)
by Fanny Burney

Plot: Evelina is 17 and beautiful with "a certain air of inexperience and innocence". Abandoned by her father, she is brought up in the country by her wise and sententious guardian, the Rev Mr Villars. Now of marriageable age, she is invited by a friend of Villars to stay in London. Here she learns to mind her p's and q's, and falls in love with the courtly Lord Orville. But her relatives seem with coarseness and snobbery and indulge in slapstick, and Evelina is stalked by the rakish nincompoop Clement Willoughby, who would be the villain of the piece were he not such a mess of affection. Finally, Sir John Belmont acknowledges his deserted daughter and proves to be golden-hearted. Evelina becomes a wealthy heiress, which assists her marriage to Lord Orville. "I knew not till now," she writes, "how requisite are birth and fortune to the attainment of respect and civility."

Theme: The exchanges between Evelina and her guardian are the moral core of the novel. Evelina is inexperienced, but her judgements are rooted in empirical observation. Burney demonstrates that although Evelina is free in her judgement, she must conform to the female stereotype of passivity.

Chief strengths: The book is a patchwork of previous writers. The claustrophobic domesticity of Richardson is given fresh air; Fielding's didacticism is presented more "objectively"; even Smollett's penchant for crude farce is included.

Chief weakness: The man – a dreadful bunch of club bores. The most difficult passages to digest are Evelina's outbursts about her guardian: "With a pleasure that bordered on agony, I embraced his knees."

What they thought of it then: Samuel Johnson thought it was better than Fielding. Gibbon read it in a day, Reynolds and Burke in a night.

What we think of it now: Burney's enthusiastic espousal of quietism poses problems; Richardson is more radical in his view of women's rights.

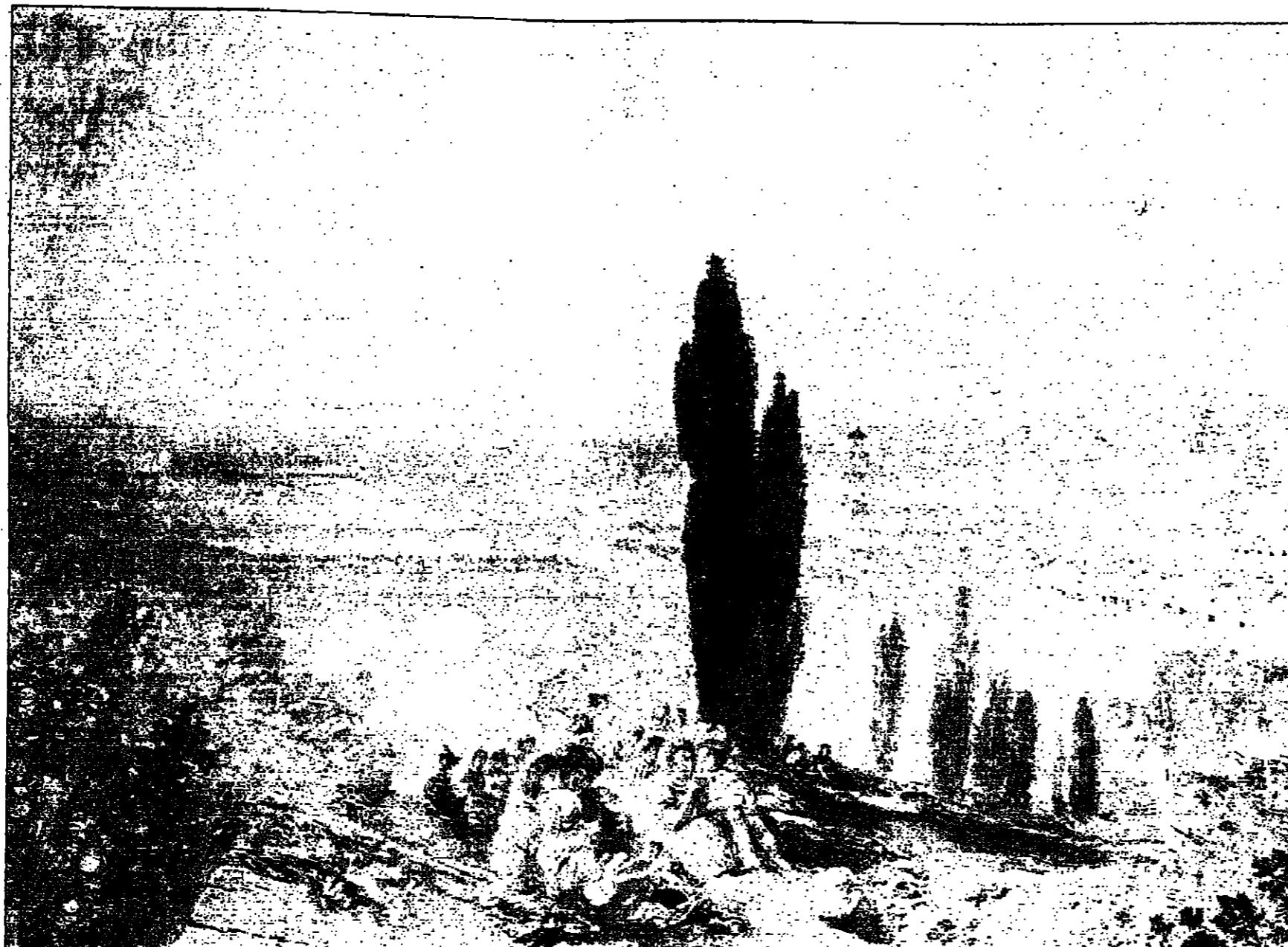
Responsible for: Inspiring Jane Austen, of course.

Tracking t
Shakespeare and
the English Renaissance
in the 1990s

July 1996

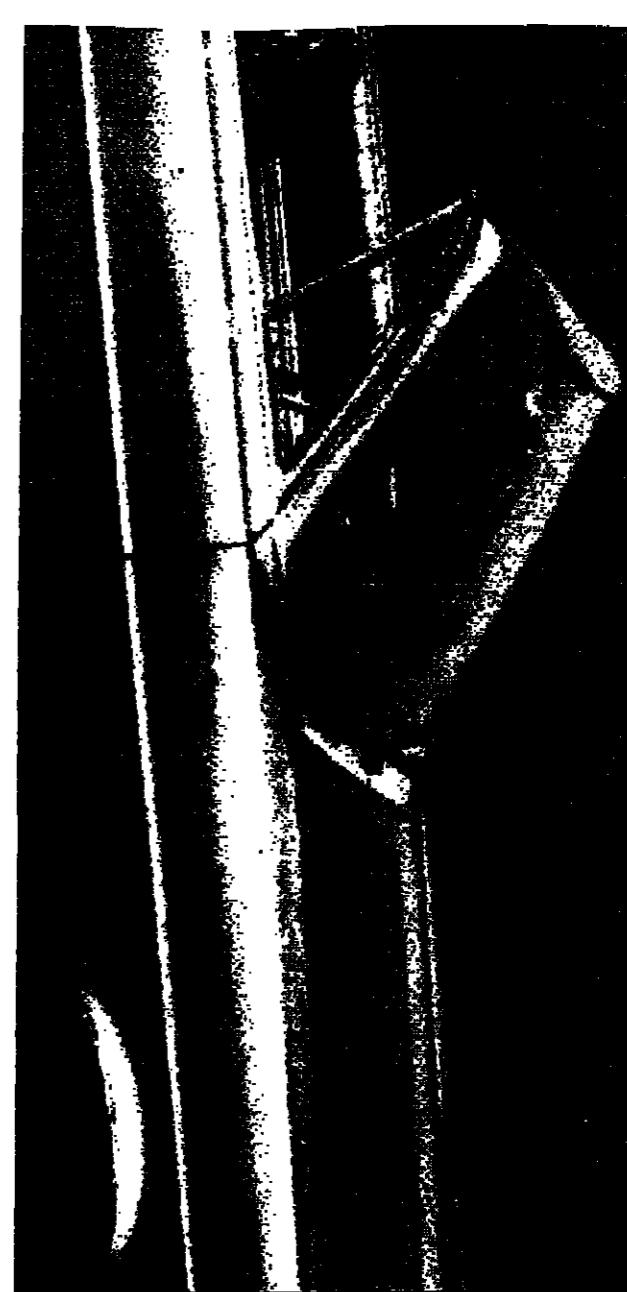
JPL 1996

books



Special to God: Turner, too, came to admire the Tuscany and the Florentines and painted this view of their city from San Miniato

Photograph: Bridgeman/National Gallery, London



Michael Chabon

author of
The Mysteries of Pittsburgh

A stylish scurry across the Arno

The British have always loved Florence. George Bull enjoys a celebration of the jewel of Chiantishire

Florence: A Portrait by Michael Levey, Cape, £25

The Florentines, like the English, have tended to think themselves special to God, even when he was chastising them. Writing his life of Michelangelo, the incomparable art historian Giorgio Vasari grandiloquently reported that, seeing that Tuscan genius had always been pre-eminent in the arts of painting, sculpture and architecture, the Almighty "chose to have Michelangelo born a Florentine, so that one of her own citizens might bring to absolute perfection the achievements for which Florence was justly renowned".

The Florentines and the English, moreover, have long displayed mutual admiration and regard, the former welcoming a long line of often conveniently rich expatriate English eccentrics, and (if well-off themselves) habitually employing English nannies, the latter eventually coming after the days of the Grand Tour to appreciate art in Florence and to prize the city as the cradle of the Renaissance. A unique treasury of Western art and one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Florence need not fret about being ignored by non-Tuscan Italians, for the English love her still, have created "Chiantishire" to be near her, and now offer a glowing tribute from one of their subtlest, most literate art historians.

Michael Levey's "portrait" of Florence is a true *travail de longue haleine*, and the reader must take it slowly or soon grow breathless. Concentration as well as stamina is needed, as if on a real-life scurry through the city trying to take in Duomo, Bargello and Palazzo Vecchio, the Uffizi,

San Lorenzo and the riches across the Arno; the art, painting and architecture, in large perspective and fine detail. Levey sets out to convey a sweeping historical view of Florence, of its physical development and political vicissitudes as these transformed the city between the Trecento and now, and a series of balanced appreciations of influential Florentines, thinkers, artists and politicians, as well as critical descriptions of its variegated artistic achievements.

He says, simply and boldly, that the book "is deliberately not purely a historical account, nor... an outline of Florentine art through the ages, and still less is it a guide-book. But it partakes of all three categories of approach, mingling them as history and art are mingled in the city. I recognise that at times such mingling may create some bewilderment...". Well, yes, they do, and yes, the "Selective Chronology" does, as Levey hopes, provide a "handrail" for the reader shaky on facts, but Levey carries it off because of the insights he provides, looking with a keen and educated eye into the splendours and delights of art and pictures, statues, buildings, and *objets d'art* of Florence.

Over the years, the erstwhile director of the National Gallery has written with perception and enthusiasm on Early and High Renaissance painting, on French and Venetian painting in 18th-century Venice, on Ottoman art, and significantly on his favourites, Tiepolo and Mozart. The story of Florence happily lets Levey bring Mozart into the picture (as composer of *La Clemenza di Tito*, written in 1787 to cel-

lbrate the coronation in Prague of Pietro Leopoldo, Grand Duke of Tuscany) and Tiepolo, as painting in Venice the same subject that Vincenzo Meucci showed about the same time in Florence (in a "pretty, powder-puff rococo ceiling decoration"). In general, Levey demonstrates in his scholarly writing the qualities of *sprezzatura* exemplified by both of his idols.

Florence: A Portrait encapsulates a socio-political history of Florence which cannot be faulted and which every so often is more than just a summary of other scholars' work. At its best in this context, the book in its last few pages – an Epilogue on the "revolution of taste which brought back to a central place in cultural consciousness the art of 15th-century Florence, and that of earlier centuries" – informatively connects to the "thrilling cause" of the Risorgimento a little genre painting by Odoardo Borriani of a seated girl sewing the three-coloured flag of Italy, with the date of 26 April 1859, when the last Grand Duke quit Florence for ever. Politics and art can't be always linked so neatly, but Levey succeeds in interweaving his material from the different strands of Florence's history smoothly enough. On politics, he often has interesting and fresh things to say – as when he marvels, not that the "precariously balanced, partly undefined system of government" of Cosimo, Piero and Lorenzo de Medici came abruptly to an end when the French invaded Italy in 1494, but that it had managed to endure so long. On Tuscan literature, he writes with easy

familiarity, reminding us that Dante's Florence lacked the famous and familiar buildings we see now as its very quintessence and approximated, in its heaven-protected antiquity, to the poet's own expressed ideal of a city living in "peace, sobriety and decency".

The interest of Michael Levey's attractively illustrated (if inadequately indexed) cornucopia of a book ultimately springs from his informed and enthusiastic descriptions of its glorious pictures, statues and buildings. Invariably he brings this art vividly to life, placing it firmly in context, and often as not boldly declaring whether or not it is novel or fresh or revolutionary. Michelangelo's *Doni tondo*, for instance – "the essentially sculpted group of Virgin, Child and St Joseph... lit with dazzling clarity and set in a rocky landscape where naked youths, half-athletes, bathers, strangely lounge" – invites Levey's comment: "Nothing like it had been painted before in Florence..." Again, of Michelangelo's statues of the Capitani in San Lorenzo, Levey affirms: "Never before in a Christian religious environment had any men been raised to death to the status of a demi-god..."

This is not the stuff of guidebooks, certainly, but Levey's portrait of Florence is crammed with information to interest and bemuse the tourist as well as the student. He would make a marvellous guide to his beloved Florence, and would be forgiven for occasionally dragging in British politics and for introducing Michelangelo's universal David as a "gay icon".

I wondered if perhaps it were all dawning on him at last; if he were beginning to realise that, having engaged, the night before, in activities as diverse as being dragged bodily and giggling from a crowded auditorium, committing grand larceny, and getting a hand job in a public place, he was now on his way to spend Passover, of all things, with the family of his dissolute professor's estranged wife, in a dented Ford Galaxie within whose trunk lay the body of a dog he had killed.'

Wonder Boys

'A superb creation, a raucously comic yet deeply lyrical work.'

Chabon has evolved into a seriously funny writer, a master of the comic set-up.'

SUNDAY TIMES

Reminiscent of early John Irving with flashes of William Boyd,

Wonder Boys is highly accomplished and great fun.'

Q MAGAZINE

4th

NOW IN PAPERBACK £6.99

Tracking the secret of King Lear's letters

Did Shakespeare's audiences see the same plays as us? By Lachlan Mackinnon

The major development in Renaissance literary scholarship over the last 10 years or so has been the rise of what is called the New Historicism. New Historicists want to place literary texts in the context of social history, to show how they form part of a larger documentary continuum in which early modern ideas about selfhood emerged, and were enacted, in the courtroom as much as in the playhouse. The aim is not simply to show how a contemporary audience might have understood poems or plays, but to demonstrate a continuity between literary and non-literary concerns. The nine essays in Lisa Jardine's new book exemplify some aspects of New Historicist practice.

The most interesting is "Reading and the Technology of Textual Affect", which draws together Erasmus's views on the writing of letters and the extraordinary number of letters exchanged in King Lear. Professor Jardine shows that Erasmus saw the familiar letter as "a highly crafted form of communica-

nation" which aimed "to convey passionate feeling, to create bonds of friendship, and to make the absent loved one (or intellectual kindred spirit) vividly present". This understanding was inherited by Shakespeare's contemporaries.

At first sight, it seems pretty obvious that letters are conscious rhetorical constructs; we address our lovers and our bank managers in different styles. Professor Jardine's point is more subtle, though, because it relates letter-writing to the establishment of community between individuals. The Erasmian letter is an honest substitute for being personally present, but when Goneril, for instance, asks her villainous servant Oswald "Have you writ that letter to my sister?", we see that the ideal of personal candour has been replaced by rhetorical expertise, to the destruction of community.

Professor Jardine argues that Shakespeare's audience, having invariably done that the past was a little dimmer and a lot less various than the present, I find it hard to believe that the groundlings had so strongly and unanimously inter-

nalised Erasmus's commentary on a letter of St Jerome or its assumptions; after all, as Professor Jardine points out, Lear himself does not share that understanding.

None the less, this essay is valuable on two counts. First, it undoubtedly shows a response which was possible for some of Shakespeare's audience, and one which is now unfamiliar. Secondly, without saying so, it returns us to the perennial mystery of Shakespeare's own relation to language, the radical scepticism which explains why we find in him no authorial commitment to the view that one utterance is more true than another. In that sense, though, Shakespeare's understanding is wider than Professor Jardine's.

Generalisations about Shakespeare's audience are, of course, usually deeply unhelpful and often patronising, suggesting as they invariably do that the past was a little dimmer and a lot less various than the present. I find it hard to believe that the groundlings had so

but the others more interesting. Dealing with *The Jew of Malta*, for instance, Professor Jardine brilliantly demonstrates that Barabas, the central figure, encapsulates a number of contemporary concerns about early capitalism for which a Jew was the necessary contemporary embodiment. For once, the play seems much more than a fascinating cartoon.

In the same essay though, she attacks *The Merchant of Venice* because Shakespeare's presentation of Shylock as "pathologically greedy, deceitful, vengeful and inhumane", whether or not this was for simply dramatic reasons, inevitably engages us "against his generalised person, his alienness and his creed".

She comes close to arguing that Marlowe was more aware than Shakespeare, which seems implausible, while the reading of *The Merchant* as anti-semitic is simplistic. Such slack moments mean that this book is, in the end, considerably less than the sum of its parts – like all too much New Historicist writing.

books

Love in the afternoon

Doris Lessing's first novel for eight years is a subtle vignette of late middle-aged passion. Louise Doughty finds her in top form

All writers and reviewers should read Doris Lessing's own preface to her world-famous bestseller *The Golden Notebook*. In it, Lessing admits to losing her sense of perspective about critical opinion when her masterpiece was published. "Recovering balance, I understood the problem. It is that writers are looking in the critics for an alter ego, that other self more intelligent than oneself who has seen what one is reaching for, and who judges you only by whether you have matched up to your aim or not." New novelists should have those words tattooed on their chests.

Love, Again is Lessing's first novel for eight years and its aim could be colloquially distilled as the desire to prove that there's life in the old dog yet. She has partially succeeded, both in terms of demonstrating her own writing skill and in the presentation of her subject matter: a convincing portrayal of an elderly, secure and intelligent woman falling comprehensively and fruitlessly in love with not one but two much younger men.

Sarah Durham, "a good name for a sensible woman", is a sixty-something theatre manager, comfortable in her comfortable home and at ease with her job at The Green Bird, the successful fringe theatre where she has worked for years. Widowed when young, she has raised two children on her own and remained cheerfully inviolate to the arrows of romantic passion ever since. The only persistent cloud on her life has been Joyce, her troubled teenaged niece who hangs out on the streets with prostitutes and drug addicts and turns up at her aunt's place once in a while to have a hot bath and pinch some jewellery.

Joyce is only a minor character

Love, Again
by Doris Lessing
Flamingo, £15.99

but her presence resonates throughout the book, a salutary reminder that youth is not all sunbathing in bikinis and romping in the long grass. Without her the novel would be much more routine.

The main narrative strand is based on the Green Bird's latest production, a play about a turn of the century artist and musician called Julie Vatron. A social outcast during her lifetime, Julie is now an icon – particularly to Stephen Ellington-Smith, an aristocratic patron of the arts who is "angel" to The Green Bird's production, first in France, then in the grounds of his English country manor. The character of Stephen is the book's big problem. He is obsessively in love with the long-dead Julie and a walking example of the havoc love can wreak in those unused to its ravages. But his obsession underway long before the book begins and we never really understand its genesis.

Sarah's passions are much more concrete as she falls firstly for Bill, the play's handsome juvenile lead, and then Henry, his director. Both men are young enough to be her sons and Bill, in particular, is spectacularly unworthy of her affections. Sarah's awareness of this is her chief redeeming feature. Even in the throes of sexual longing, she never loses her sense of how ridiculous the whole thing is. Once Bill has kicked open the door of her carefully preserved self-containment, the floodgates are open and Henry walks right in.

It is profoundly disappointing for



Doris Lessing: theories of love and messy practicalities

Photograph: Jeremy Nicholl

the reader – never mind Sarah – that she never gets to consummate either of these amours. Lessing's subject matter is the theory of love as much as its messy practicalities. (She quotes so many authors and songwriters on the topic that it is hard to avoid the suspicion she has rifled a dictionary of quotations). In the same way, there is little sense of the economic realities of running a theatre. Lessing has a thousand people turn up for an open-air dress rehearsal of Julie Vatron in a remote rural area of France – and they all go away enraptured despite

the fact that there is no banked seating or amplification. What she does capture – quite brilliantly – is the joyous self-absorption of a group of people all bent on the same artistic endeavour – the instant bondings, the sexual tensions and the claustrophobia.

In many ways, the most interesting relationship in the book are the non-romantic ones. There is an excoriating portrayal of Hal, Sarah's awful Harley Street brother, father to the unfortunate Joyce. At one point, Sarah visits their mother to try and understand

her own newly-acquired emotional vulnerability but comes away without an answer. We are left to speculate about the extent to which the seeds of romantic destruction are sown during childhood. In a scene of intense, almost painful insight, Sarah witnesses a harassed mother cruelly ignoring her toddler daughter in a park and a kaleidoscope of possibilities about Sarah's own, unexplored childhood opens up. It is a wonderful moment in a book which, for all its imperfections, is full of fine thought and feeling.

Piers and pie and Pinkie's heir

Chris Paling wrote his first novel commuting between Brighton and London. The second tackles the home turf. By Christopher Hawtree

I must plead guilty to manufacturing this Brighton of mine as I never manufactured Mexico or Indo-China." So said Graham Greene of a novel which, 60 years on, keeps such a grip on the imagination that visitors to the coastal resort are invariably disappointed by the reality of a provincial town choc-a-block with buses ferrying people to the suburbs in time for high tea.

This has not prevented periodic attempts at *The Great Brighton Novel*. With his second novel close on the heels of the admirable debut *After the Raid*, Chris Paling has come up with something which might have resulted had David Cook written *Pulp Fiction*. In his first novel, Paling created a wartime

world strung somewhere between reality and madness, one in which the mind's cliffs of fuel were as vivid as the railway carriages, asylum and terraced houses through which its troubled hero appeared to pass.

Deserters, told some while after the event by a bisexual wastrel, Cliffe, is rather more strung out. He has fetched up in Brighton and needs must, moved in with Barry, the proprietor of a tarted-up greasy spoon. Before long, Cliffe is also in thrall to the disturbed May, a lodger in the place. Cliffe decides to spirit her out, and so begins something of a Walter-and-June odyssey, one which has both hooligans and officialdom on their trail after a fracas on the Pier and their

Deserters
by Chris Paling
Cape, £14.99

making off with another woman's child. Of a certain Mr. Hollinger we are told, "I'd never considered him to be a proper first division villain. He had too much intelligence for that. Pure villainy requires a good deal more mental instability." Such pithy remarks fill the novel, as Cliffe and May find it safer to separate and (after some nasty dealings that make Cliffe fearful for his lips) he ends up with a stint in Lewes gaol.

The story is not consistently told from Cliffe's point of view. Early on, he observes, for example, that "the darkness allows you to take a slice of the room and own it for a moment before passing on and finding another, until all of the room is yours." This authorial voice keeps creeping into Cliffe's territory.

"There's something haughty and feminine about the town. It's unforgivably ugly and new in too many places but there's still enough life in the oldy old barior for her to throw her skirts round you and haul you close for a long slow dance." That, surely, is the legend-conscious voice of Paling, who then slips into this, more akin to Cliffe: "People who come for the day

never see that. The place is a bitch to the day tripper, they're corralled down the worst dog-shit-laden streets, the poorest fast food restaurants, the most expensive pubs with the dirtiest glasses. But it serves them right."

Just as Brighton town councillors were once alarmed by signs ("Buy Brighton Rock") which inadvertently advertised Greene's novel, they will doubtless distance themselves from Paling's view of the place. That would be blinkered of them. Whatever the faults of the novel's shifting tone, it has something of that distinct view of the world which made one certain that the author of *After the Raid* is among the most accomplished English novelists to emerge in recent years.

Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagelstadt and Christopher Hirst

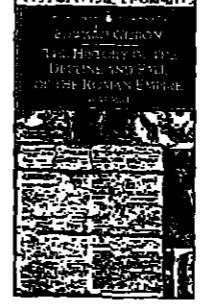
Domino by Ross King (Minerva, £5.99) Eighteenth century London is brought dizzyingly alive in Ross King's first novel, a peculiar mystery featuring a beady-eyed castrato and a hapless young portrait painter. Set adrift amongst "Persons of Quality" and over-perfumed fops, the innocent George Cawley comes to discover that London's *beau monde* is an insubstantial and deceptive place to want to be. King's prose sniffs out London's darker street-corners with a doggedness to match Peter Ackroyd's.



Hemingway's Chair by Michael Palin (Mandarin, £5.99) Martin Sproat lives a double life. By day he works as assistant manager of Thetford Post Office, by night he transforms himself into his bourbon-slugging hero, "Papa" Hemingway. And just as well, as the time to kick ass has come. Palin's gentle satire on the perils of Post Office privatisation is a study in physical comedy (people are always wearing peculiar sandals, or getting trapped in small cars) and untidy passions. An airport book worth picking up.



The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire Vol 1 by Edward Gibbon (Penguin, £15) Despite its awesome bulk and towering reputation, Gibbon's *magnum opus* is engagingly readable (one devotee is Rolling Stone Keith Richard). This first volume takes the story up to the last pagan emperor in the 4th century, including a detour in time for a swipe at the early Christians ("it was not in this world that the primitive Christians were desirous of making themselves either agreeable or useful").



The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy by David Cannadine (Penguin, £15) Gibbon's ringing phrase is only half proven in this acclaimed panorama of the posh. Cannadine demolishes the notion that the nobility were scythed down in the First World War – 80 per cent returned from the front. More significant was increased urbanisation and the "dilution of select society" by the predatory new rich. And the aristocracy has yet to fall. Despite the entertaining examples of dissipation given here, it remains tenacious in its own interests.

Douglas Adams, creator of 'The Hitch-hiker's Guide to the Galaxy', has been weighing the evidence for man's earliest origins



I'm a voracious reader but as a result books get half finished or buried in a pile beneath the bed. One that has escaped this fate is Colin Tudge's *The Day Before Yesterday* (Cape) which traces human evolution from 5 million years ago until the present day. I would have welcomed a starting point of 7 million years ago to discuss the thorny issue of "aquatic apes" – which may be one of the explanations for our hairless, bi-pedal, and perspiratory states, to say nothing of the strangely partitioned larynx – if only because it puts anthropologists into such a rage. Instead Tudge, a zoologist, is careful to give a fair and general account of the likely course of events based on fossil evidence and scientific proof. He does this with the conversational tone that a number of science writers have now mastered, but I have never read such a clear and cogent account of the proceedings.

Small g: a Summer Idyll by Patricia Highsmith (Penguin, £4.99) Highsmith's last novel, but one that might disappoint even her most devoted fans. Set in a small bar in Zurich and with an unusually messy cast of characters (including a performing pet poodle by the name of Lulu), the book doesn't have the power and momentum of *Carol*, the author's previous gay novel. But some delicious Highsmithesque touches still remain: good food features prominently on the bar's menu, and a club-footed seamstress casts her malevolent eye over the summer's proceedings.



Letters Vol 1: 1926-1954 by John Betjeman (Minerva, £7.99) Edited with exemplary skill by his daughter, this bumper haul reminds us what a treat old Betj was. The contents are more savage and self-confident than might have been expected. On his brief spell as prep school master: "how I loathe them all". On his father: "it makes me sick to think of him". Despite occasional hints of the melancholia which dogged his later years, the overwhelming impression is one of hilarity. Illustrated with the author's scratchy marginalia, this is the funniest collection of letters since Waugh's.



The Penguin Encyclopedia of Crime by Oliver Cyriax (£9.99) One of the oddest reference books in recent years, but also creepily enthralling. Cyriax (a great name for a villain), has an idiosyncratic approach to his murky subject matter. Successive entries include: Kidnapping, invention of; Kidney, human; Kids, crack; Killer bimbos. As well as potted accounts of *causes célèbres*, he delves into arcane areas ranging from treadwheels to "Dolphins, sex with". Not for the faint-hearted, this book is rich in black humour.



Desert Depths

"Oh no! Not another book about going off into the desert to find yourself. Yeah, right." Cindy Kent, Premier Radio
But this one is different. It's readable, witty, warm and totally unpardonable." Cindy Kent, Premier Radio
Scripture Union 01865 747663 Ref 113-4 £4.95

Portrait of the artist as cinematographer

Gilbert Adair is entranced by Kundera's latest tricks to mimic time and motion

Slowness
by Milan Kundera
Faber, £12.99

figure out how he does it. Like all of Kundera's books, *Slowness* modulates between past and present, between fiction and fantasy, between memoir and essay, but with so slyly agile-footed a grace, so mercurial an insouciance, it seems almost never to touch the ground. (The exceptional limpidity and refinement of the prose may be a function of the fact that, writing fiction in what is for him a foreign language, Kundera has further simplified his never overtly-fancy style). Is it a novel set in the eighteenth century illuminated by digressions from the twentieth, or vice versa? It is impossible to say.

He walks his memories and musings around the estate of that chateau (a house and its park, interior and exterior – again, it occurs to one, the ideal cinematic space) as apparently idly as if he were walking a cocker spaniel before turning in for the night, and we follow him, slavishly, everywhere.

There are sharp, satirical vignettes en route, all of them rebuking the modern world for its bullying hypocrisies. Watching the agony of starving Somalian children on television, Vera asks her husband, "Are there old people dying in that country as well?" An intellectual (whose name, Berck, if spoken aloud, is French for "Yuk") ponders on whether to kiss an AIDS sufferer at a charity dinner. Called upon to speak at a scientific seminar, a long-oppressed Czech entomologist forgets himself in the emotion of the moment, speaks instead about his own, newly-won freedom of speech, happily regains his seat and only then realises to his mortification that he has quite forgotten to deliver his prepared paper on the *Musca pragenensis*.

Along the way, however, he thinks of "another journey from Paris out to a country chateau", that made by the two protagonists of Vivian Denon's libertine novella *Point de lendemain* (or *No Tomorrow*), first published anonymously, in 1777. That in turn seems seamlessly into a commentary on *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* and the true meaning of the word "hedonism", which (we are now inside the hotel itself) reminds him of a friend, Vincent, and his unconditional adulation of the intellectual Pontevian, which prompts reflections on the whole phenomenon of the image-obsessed media pundit. Which then... I could go on. And I perhaps ought to, for I have to confess that I simply cannot

confess that I simply cannot

Ever

R

gardening

This weekend 16 million lawns will be fussed, fed and fretted over

...but is the effort, and are the pesticides, really necessary?
Anna Pavord extolls the virtues of the alternative, Freedom Lawn

Somebody somewhere is probably already writing a thesis on our relationship with lawns. "Man v Nature; rediscovering harmony", "Songs of the Sod: an Assessment of Mowing", "Striped State: Man, Machine and Mindset". I use the word "Man" optimistically, for I depend on having nothing to do with our lawn. My husband, who is gloriously unreconstructed, thinks that mowing is Man's Work. That is fine by me. I do not have great expectations of a lawn. I like it greenish and flatish. Daisies and blue flowered speedwell seem a positive benefit. Sometimes we have had sprinklings of violets in the lawn, too.

An American thesis on the subject has already been published in this country: *Redesigning the American Lawn* by F Herbert Bormann, Diana Balmori and Gordon T Geballe (Yale £7.95). Lawns there are even more of a fetish than they are here. Fences are frowned on, so lawns are rather public places. Whoever lets the side down by not mowing the sward in front of his house gets cross letters from the county authority reminding him of his duty as a citizen to keep the wilderness at bay.

Murray and Ann Blum of Athens, Georgia, refused to toe the line. To save face, the town council designated their unkempt one-acre garden a bird sanctuary and put up a large notice on one of their trees explaining this to the world at large. A picture from the Atlanta Journal shows Murray Blum laughing in his garden under the headline *The Yard From Hell*.

The authors argue for a less fascist approach to the garden lawn. "Properly" maintained (that is maintained according to the instructions issued by manufacturers of fertilisers, weed-killers, moss killers, lawn sand, lawn aerators, and the like) a lawn is a monoculture. The best kept lawns are those with the least diversity of plants; several million blades of fescue living in a botanical ghetto, untroubled by interlopers such as daisy or dandelion.

Bormann and co are proponents of what they call The Freedom Lawn (as distinct from The Industrial Lawn, the one with no weeds). It sounds good to me. The Freedom Lawn, they say "results from an interaction of naturally recurring processes". I think that means you mow, but not too close. You leave the clippings to feed the lawn. You tolerate interlopers, as long as they do not get too bossy. I wage occasional war on lawn weeds with wide skirts, such

Grass: a user's guide

Here is a calendar of jobs to keep a reasonable family lawn in good fettle. As soon as possible in April, rake out as much as possible of the moss and thatch in the lawn. If you have a large area to cover, you can hire a scarifier to do the job for you. Then treat the lawn with a moss killer combined with a fertiliser (the Japanese think moss gardens the height of refinement). Between April and October give the lawn one or possibly two treatments of a fertiliser combined with a weedkiller. Fisons Evergreen Weed and Feed Liquid or BBQ Triple Action Lawn Care are Gardening Which? Best Buys (produced by Bioflora).

In October, spike and aerate the lawn to ease compaction. On a smallish lawn you can do this with a garden fork, wiggling it about after you have stuck it in the ground to open up the holes (The Freedom Lawn needs this tool). Follow on with a sieved top dressing of sharp sand - not builder's sand - mixed half and half with garden soil. If your ground is heavy and sticky, increase the proportion of sand. If it is light and dries out quickly, add more soil, garden compost, or fine leaf mould to the mix. Spread a spadeful over each square yard of the lawn (top dressing is exhausting, but it is one of the best things you can do to lawns, Freedom or otherwise).

as dandelion, plantain and thistle, but it is quicker and far more satisfying to whip these out with a penknife than to spend hours like a donkey on a treadmill, walking up and down behind a spreader, scattering weedkiller.

Lawns cover 20 million acres of the US, making lawn grass the biggest single "crop" produced in the country. But the Americans, like us, moan about what farmers are doing to the environment, while, like us, spending millions on various chemicals to tip on to their own patches of ground. The National Academy of Science in the States discovered that homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides than do farmers.

The arguments against The Industrial Lawn are ones we know already, but don't always care to take on board. There is the argument about the fossil fuels needed to power the ever increasing range of machines we are told we need to maintain our lawns: mowers, aerators, leaf blowers, strimmers. More fossil fuel is burnt up

transporting herbicides and chemical fertilisers from mines to factories and garden centres.

We shrug and say, "Well our lawn machines don't use much petrol". That's true, but the two-stroke engine is a dirty, wasteful converter of fuel to energy. There is, as yet, no legal requirement to fit catalytic converters to lawnmower engines, although its relative inefficiency means that, for each horse power produced, it creates 50 times more pollution than a long distance lorry. Or, to put it another way, if it takes you one hour to mow your lawn with a petrol-driven lawnmower, you will have produced as much air pollution as if you had driven 350 miles in your car.

Another argument for The Freedom Lawn has to do with a different kind of pollution, as excess fertilisers and pesticides wash off our lawns into springs and streams. Then there is the problem of water shortage. Our obsession with the greenness of a lawn tempts us to water them in a dry summer, such as we had last year. Hose pipe bans are difficult to police. But if you

leave it alone, with the first rain a lawn will green up of its own accord.

Part of the problem is that our expectations of our lawns (and much else in the garden) are unrealistically high. We expect them to be perfect and unblemished, whatever the prevailing conditions. That can become a fetish.

The creed of The Freedom Lawn will be an anathema to the fanatical acolytes for whom a single daisy can be cause for hara-kiri. These are more likely to be men than women. Perhaps it is the ritual that attracts: the weekly cut, the edge clipping, the stripes. The need for stripes is particularly intriguing, but deeply ingrained enough for Flymo to have introduced a Hoverstripe mower that stripes as it cuts as it hovers. Before, only cylinder mowers and some types of rotary mower gave the desired effect.

This weekend, our lawn will get its first cut. That is late, but the weather has been so cold, the grass has scarcely been growing. And this

weekend another 16 million lawns in the UK will be fussed and fretted over, fed, spiked, raked and rolled. If you do everything that you are told to do to a lawn in a year, it can become the most demanding area of the garden. The most expensive, too.

However much you do on top to a lawn, its appearance, ultimately, is most affected by what is going on underneath: fertility and drainage. If the underpinning is not ideal, as is often the case, then fertilisers, herbicides and moss treatments can only ever be props. Not cures.

Low nutrient levels and poor drainage are the usual causes of moss build-up. Mowing too close also has a bad effect. The cut shouldn't be closer than 15mm (about three quarters of an inch). Compaction, where the lawn is heavily used for games, bike riding, football, will also promote moss at the expense of grass.

Whatever the benefits to the environment, I don't expect great support for The Freedom Lawn. Here, badly kept grass is a moral slur.



SUE SMITH

WEEKEND WORK

There have been some desiccating north-easterly winds blowing recently. Wind dries out foliage faster than sun and is particularly difficult for newly planted evergreens to cope with. Spray them regularly with water or rig up plastic mesh windbreaks until the plants are well established.

Delphiniums are growing at last and need to be gently tied in to canes with soft twine. The sappy growths are very brittle. You will get bigger spikes of flower if you snip out the weaker shoots. Slugs are potty about delphiniums. Protect plants if necessary.

Peonies also need staking. The prettiest (and most effective) way to do this is to weave a lobster pot of twigs around and over the clumps. Hazel or willow are the traditional materials to use. But if you have dogwood stems

to cut down (see last week's Weekend Work) you can use them instead.

Think about restocking ponds with fish and plants. Fish like to stir around in the soil that the pond plants are set in, but a thick layer of gravel on top of the compost will deter them. Put this on before you lower plants into their final positions.

Continue to sow seed of flowers for planting out later in spring. I have just sown seed of *Convolvulus 'Flagship Mixed'* (Mr Fothergill £1.35), which should be flowering by July. It has the sort of trumpet flowers you would expect, but comes in a wide range of colours: dark and pale blue, pink and red, all with a white throat. They grow about 12-15in tall and are ideal for tubs and window boxes. This convolvulus is a favourite of hover-flies. They are worth attracting because they gobble up aphids.

On the trail of hardy mimosas

By Anna McKane

At this time of year, when so much pink and white blossom is about, rounding a corner and coming upon a mimosa with its masses of fluffy bright yellow flowers cascading from the arched branches, stops you in your tracks. Mimosa evoke a racy Thirties world of extended out-of-season stays on the Côte d'Azur. It seems to go with neatly pressed yachting clothes and lounging on teak steamer chairs. But some mimosas are pretty hardy, so you don't have to be very rich or live in the south of France to keep them happy.

Several will live in warm sheltered corners, while others will survive in cool glasshouses. The small spherical flowers, which grow in huge clusters, are actually made up entirely of stamens: mimosa flowers have no petals. Some mimosas have no leaves either. The leaf-like structures are phyllodes, flattened triangular leaf stalks which grow straight on the branches.

Acacia dealbata, the silver wattle, is one of the easiest to obtain and easiest to grow in this country. It is the same one which is often seen by the side of the road in the south of France. The Mediterranean mimosa can blossom at other times, too. They have fern-like silvery leaves and their scent makes up for the rather harsh yellow flowers.

Acacia dealbata is worth trying in a sheltered spot anywhere in the south of England, where it can grow to 30 feet. In suitable conditions, mimosa grow fast: at Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens in Dorset they grow some species from seed - in less than a year these are three feet tall and ready to sell! There are 1500 different species of Acacia, all of which originated in Australia and Africa. Many need enough room to grow into a small tree, will sink if they are cut down too much, and won't stand frost - so there is a limited choice for gardeners without double-height conservatories.

If you're on the trail of hardy mimosa you could try *A. retinodes*. This is an attractive tree with narrow willow-like leaves, which flowers in late summer. But the best of all is probably *A. pravissima*.

This is one which has phyllodes instead of leaves. They are silver-grey and arrow shaped, growing all along the branches, so they make good cut foliage even without the flowers. The flowers are a softer yellow than the silver wattle, and clusters of them are slightly smaller. They are spread all along the branches, so rather than making a solid block of yellow, the overall effect is of a mingled yellow and soft green. The branches flow in elegant arches and seem from underneath, with a backdrop of a clear spring sky, the effect is totally magical. My plant flowered in January last year, but this year it is just about to flower as late as April, presumably because of the cold weather at the beginning of the year.



Mimosa flowers have no petals but are made up entirely of stamens
Photograph: Garden Picture Library

way Gardens near Brixham in Devon explained, they need well drained soil, and plenty of room to grow. If they are cut back too much it may prevent them from flowering freely.

As with many other plants, trial and error is proving that more and more mimosa will survive in this country. A flower which 20 or 30 years ago we expected to see only on holiday, is now being persuaded to thrive here. And as growers experiment with species, we can expect the range of mimosa to widen over the next few years.

Greenway Gardens, Churston Ferrers, Brixham, Devon TQ5 0ES (01803 842 382) and Abbotsbury Sub-Tropical Gardens, Abbotsbury, Nr Weymouth, Dorset DT3 4LA (01305 871412) both specialise in unusual and tender trees and shrubs and have several mimosa on their lists.

Save Time, Money And Energy!

With Two Machines In One - A Trimmer And A Mower!

- No Weight To Carry - The Machine Does The Work!
- Cut Grass Up To 3 Feet High - Even When Wet!
- Supported By A National Dealer Network!
- No Metal Blades To Bend Or Dull!
- Up To 5hp Petrol Engine Powered!
- It Cuts Faster Than A Brushcutter!
- It Works On Slopes Easily!
- Hire Before You Buy Option!
- PLUS New DR Owners Could Receive A Free DR Jacket!

For A Full Info Pack Call 0800 22 66 88 FREE!



To advertise in this section
please call 0171 293 2344.



There are 50 different kinds of narcissi in bloom at a private garden in West Sussex. It is open to the public this weekend.

The Alpine Garden Society is holding a show in Nottingham today (11.30am-4.30pm) at the Arnold and Carlton College of Further Education, Digby Avenue, Mapperley. Alpine are in full flood now. Look for saxifrages, primroses of many kinds, lewisia, iris, fritillaries, ferns and dwarf shrubs. There will be plants for sale. Admission £1. Specialist aspects of gardening, such as water gardening, landscaping and propagation are part of a week long course entitled 'Aspects of Gardening', which is being offered to ambitious gardeners at the Royal

Botanic Garden, Kew. Tutors include Rupert Golby, who will talk about the decorative kitchen garden and Dr Glynis Dawkins whose specialty is gardening for wildlife. The course includes Nymans and Denmans gardens in Sussex and the kitchen garden of the Manoir aux Quat' Saisons in Oxfordshire. The course runs from 24-28 June, fee £245. Enrolment forms and further details from the Education Department, RBG, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB (0181-332 5626). Today 20 gardens in Felpham, West Sussex are open (10am-6pm) in aid of the village's St Mary's Centre. At the centre itself you can get coffee, home-made lunch and tea in between garden visits. At Deepdene, 38 South Drive, there is a hundred foot shrubbery, with arches leading to quiet areas of ferns and rhododendrons. At Sandy Lodge, 10 Davenport Road, the garden has twice been washed away by high tides, but there are still 50 different kinds of narcissi in bloom. Produce and preserves will be on sale at 41 Ley Road, where the owners have a sheltered-walled garden with a productive vegetable plot. Admission £2.50.

Joly in 1996

count



Above: Iolo Williams on the trail of the thieves (photo: Rob Stratton); left: a red kite (photo: Planet Earth); and (above right) a peregrine's eggs (photo: Dennis Green)

INSIDE THE MIND OF AN EGG THIEF

- Eggs have no commercial value. Usually they are gobbled over privately – although occasionally other enthusiasts may be invited for a viewing.
- One man was caught in 1989, holding 16,500 illegal eggs.
- The RSPB has 500 known collectors on its database. Most eggers keep scrupulous records. One apprehended recently had diaries dating back 10 years, complete with grid references to important nest sites, clutch sizes and laying dates. He revisited the same areas on almost exactly the same day annually.
- The red-backed shrike was probably finally exterminated in Britain by collectors. The last regular pairs disappeared in 1988.
- True eggers take all the nest contents – particularly large clutches or strangely-marked eggs, removing embryos by piping in acid and syringing out the contents.

The egg's favourites

- Ravens (5,000 pairs): early March raids on these, the first layers, double as reconnaissance for future raids.
- Scottish golden eagles (420 pairs): late March.
- Welsh red kites (160 pairs): early April.
- Choughs (280 pairs) – our rarest crows, nesting on Welsh and Scottish cliffs: late April.
- Scottish red- and black-throated divers (1,400 and 155 pairs respectively): highly prized because of their beautiful eggs: May.
- Ospreys (100 pairs) – no longer as rare as they were in the 1950s, but their eggs remain highly valued for the markings; eight clutches were lost in 1995: May.
- Dotterels (155 pairs) – moorland waders from the Arctic are raided in Scotland: May/June.
- Avocets (500 pairs) – the RSPB emblem: May/June.
- Gull Burnings (230 pairs) – fast declining in the West Country: May/June.

The man who hunts the egg thieves

Iolo Williams stays up all night at this time of year. He's guarding the rare birds of Wales By Daniel Butler

A couple of years ago we had a tip-off about eggers from the Midlands after roosting terns. We had to wait on an Anglesey beach all night: in the end we caught them at about half past four in the morning. That sort of thing can happen any time from March to July.

Iolo Williams seems remarkably calm about the coming four months of sleepless nights and often futile waits, but that's not surprising – his mind is on other things. As he speaks his eyes are upturned, scouring the surrounding trees while rooks caw in the valley below. "We're on a known goshawk wood" in mid-Wales at the beginning of his working year – spring.

As species officer for the RSPB in Wales, Mr Williams is responsible for protecting many of Britain's rarest birds and the breeding season is by far the busiest time of year: "It kicks off properly in April," he says.

"We're most interested in red kites, but it usually starts with ravens. They're earliest of all and collectors come in March to watch other birds pairing up. While pinning down kite nests for a later raid, they collect ravens' eggs – get their hand in, so to speak."

Williams tries to be first to identify potential nests. This allows him to mount guards: "We

divide Wales up between about 20 unpaid kite wardens who range from retired people to a solicitor," he explains.

Once the sites have been found, the most vulnerable birds may have to be helped: "Eggers care nothing for birds and nothing for the countryside," he continues. "As far as I'm concerned, egg-collecting is nothing short of mindless vandalism."

Worse, eggs are valued in direct proportion to the rarity of the bird – and kites are among the rarest. Well-known nests have to be watched in some cases 24 hours a day. This seems to be working well: "We've got away lightly the past few years because the army has helped guard nests and the thieves know it," says Williams. "So far we've only lost a couple, but before that it was anything up to 10 a year."

Mind you, even if a clutch hatches, more help may be needed. Kites are notoriously bad parents – one pair, for example, persistently nests above a lay-by every year, only to desert their young as the tourist season begins. So the chicks have to be hand-reared and returned to the wild later. But the effort is worthwhile – kites have increased from 15 individuals at the turn of the century to last year's 130 pairs: "This year I expect to find more than 140," Williams smiles.

Egggers, though, are not the only villains. Thieves steal peregrines to sell to falconers while kite fanciers often blame peregrines for high losses among their flocks. Williams comes in for his share of hatred, too. A few years ago he found a peregrine eyrie where the clutch had been replaced with hen's eggs. The words "Fuck you Iolo" were written on them in lipstick – I know who did it and he's not a man to be tangled with."

Williams stiffens: "There we are – that's it." He points to an untidy mass against a larch trunk. "This is an active goshawk nest," he says confidently. "And it was used last year, too – look here's a bit of shell."

Pleased to have pin-pointed the nest, he explains that the breeding season is the only time when a census can be taken of many rarities such as these goshawks. He also counts more familiar birds: "Common species are important environmental indicators," he says. "For example, lapwings have dropped from 7,000 pairs to well under 1,000 pairs in just eight years, and skylarks are becoming rare in lowland areas."

Every spring Williams recruits fieldworkers for RSPB studies: "This year we're surveying the Brecon Beacons to find ways of making

money in the uplands without sheep," he says. "And we're doing a farmland study to check the value of environmental subsidies."

Although much of the groundwork is delegated to others, it results in long hours for Williams, too: "I don't expect to be in the office more than twice a week," he says. "If I ask someone to be out at dawn then the least I can do is to be out there too, particularly because we're increasingly using volunteers."

From March to July the day begins horribly early: "If you're monitoring black grouse, for example, you're up at 2am to catch the males displaying at dawn. Then I'll spend five or six hours with my field workers. Afterwards I'll aim for an early night, but of course it doesn't always work out like that because owls and nightjars need to be counted in the evening."

In spite of the energy he puts into his work, his efforts are frustrated by factors beyond his control. Overgrazing is worst: "There were 4 million sheep in Wales before the war – now there are 11.7 million," he says. "The result is fields as smooth as a bowling green and a huge loss of heather."

The answer lies in cutting back on sheep numbers, says Williams, but the problem is

more complicated than that: "Rural communities are the backbone of our culture," he says. "We don't want to lose that, but we want the birds back. We should get the farming unions together with our policy people and work out solutions together."

As the year progresses, the pressures to be out and about reduce, but the hours remain long: "The fieldwork eases off in July, but then I'm busy writing up reports, after which I plan next year's research and working out budgets."

He pauses by the car parked inconspicuously in a lay-by: "I love my job, in spite of its drawbacks – I'm captain of the local rugby club, but there's precious little time for games." There are other disadvantages, too, such as the 2am call from the police one Sunday morning: "They'd searched a car and wanted me to identify some eggs. I'd had a few beers with the team and was over the limit, but they were insistent and a squad car came 40 miles to pick me up. Now for five months of the year I can't even have a drink at the weekend."

No does he get paid overtime to compensate for the hours, but Williams doesn't mind: "Doing something I believe in while being out and about in such a beautiful country is bonus enough," he says, his eyes still glued to the skies.

INDEPENDENT
READERS' OFFER
For Gardeners - Help is at Hand

just £9.99 per pack of two

Cracked and stained hands are no longer a gardener's woe. These two unique and natural products will safely guard your hands.

Gardeners Hand Cream is a unique barrier cream especially formulated for gardeners. Ingredients of Beeswax, Lanolin and magical Comfrey not only protects but also helps to heal sore, cracked hands. Non-perfumed.

Gardeners Hand Cleanser is a blend of natural ingredients which gently yet effectively dissolve away grime to dirt and grime. A natural antiseptic and anti-bacterial, it contains coconut oil which moisturises the hands - unlike ordinary soap which can have a drying effect.

Neither product is tested on animals.

One 200ml bottle of each just £9.99 inc. p&p.

HOW TO ORDER
Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal orders. NO CASH PLEASE.
THE INDEPENDENT HANDCARE OFFER,
PO BOX 261, SLOUGH SL2 3RU

FOR ACCESS/VISA ORDERS, PLEASE PHONE 01753 642234
We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied.

Please send me _____ Handcare jumbo(s) @ £9.99 each inc. p&p
I enclose a crossed cheque for £ _____ (address on back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING IND229
or debit my Access/Visa account by this amount. My card number is:

Expiry Date _____ / _____ Signature _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Post Code _____

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive other free newspaper publications etc. or samples approved by Newspaper Publishing Ltd.



Please send me _____ Handcare jumbo(s) @ £9.99 each inc. p&p
I enclose a crossed cheque for £ _____ (address on back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING IND229
or debit my Access/Visa account by this amount. My card number is:

Expiry Date _____ / _____ Signature _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Post Code _____

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive other free newspaper publications etc. or samples approved by Newspaper Publishing Ltd.

Settle an argument, will you?" said the tourist to the man in the craft shop. "Those fires on the mountain – have they been started on purpose?"

The man replied that the blazes were deliberate: shepherds were burning off old heather, as they always do in winter and early spring. Yet the tourist's curiosity was understandable, for the conflagrations were so numerous that half the hillsides seemed to be going up in smoke.

Out there in the Western Highlands, the weather was stunning. The sun blazed down, and only a cool breeze saved hill-walkers from overheating. For casual visitors, this seemed a perfect climate. But local people were all obsessed by one subject: drought.

Lochs were at an alarmingly low level, burns reduced to a trickle, and the surface of the land was as dry as tinder. Walking up into the great wilderness of Letterewe, north of Loch Maree, I felt a sense of unease, brought on by the way the dead grass crunched underfoot and only trickles of water wound their way down the rocky burn-channels.

which one speaker revealed that the remains of fossilised plants 520 millions of years old have been found in Scotland, and that the earliest known vertebrates crawled on to land in Morayshire 368 million years ago – developments brought about by the sea and air being tropically warm then.

Scientists dispute whether or not our climate is heading back in that direction, but hill-walkers are surrounded by evidence of relatively short-term meteorological change. The mountains of Wester Ross are now almost devoid of trees, but still in the sides of peat-hags you can see ancient roots, relics of the Caledonian forest which grew up after the glaciers of the last ice age had pulled back, perhaps 10,000 years ago.

Man played a part in the massacre of that forest. But the principal agent of destruction was the climate, which turned progressively colder and wetter, gradually degrading the soil and laying down a blanket of infertile peat. Which way are we heading now? I defy anyone to predict what Letterewe will look like 10,000 years hence.



DUFF HART-DAVIS

Breathing Space.
(Don't take it for granted)

We don't. Help us keep Britain's breathing spaces open. Footpaths and coastline, high places, heaths and woodland. For walkers.

For 60 years, THE RAMBLERS' lobbying and vigilance have been achieving wide-ranging rights of access to some of our most beautiful countryside. Go for a walk. Take a breather from our crowded world. Think about the future; invest in THE RAMBLERS.

Join us.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Date of birth _____
Tick box for membership type required
 Ordinary £16 Reduced* £8
 Family/Off* £20 Joint reduced* £10
For two adults or same address
 Under 18/student/disabled/unemployed
 Please send me details of life membership/
conveniences/child rates
Donation £ _____ I enclose £ _____
Working for walkers
The Ramblers
Regd Charity No. 205939

1-5 Wandsword Road, London SW8 2XX. Tel: 0171 582 6878

IND14

avel

KEEPING AROUND:
TART HERE

The most disturbing aspect of modern travel is the convergence towards uniformity. Nowhere is this more evident than in the hotel room. Your Holiday Inn experience should provide the same depth of mattress, made of bland wallpaper and smiling receptionist whether you are in Leeds or Paris. Is these two pages demonstrate, there are fortunately plenty of alternatives to the march of en suite uniformity. But for those who want to stay somewhere really different, I propose the following.

The Hilton Hotel stands alongside the main Mbarara-Lampala highway in western Uganda; not, however, a member of the illustrious chain, but a one-room shack which specialises less in accommodation than in tea and beer. If you drift off under the influence of the latter, then a dusty corner will no doubt be found for you. But you might be better off shifting continents to find a

bed for the night. Forty pence buys you a night in a stables in a two-horse town in the highlands of Guatemala. The site has been converted into rooms for paying guests, who can presumably afford 4 quetzales more easily than can the horses, who fortunately have been evicted. Their aroma lingers, and has permeated every fraying thread of the blanket which insulates you from a plastic mattress. Double glazing is not a feature; indeed glazing is not a feature. The rate, by the way, is for a double.

More economical still, roll up at the creaky old hotel in Gibara, Cuba, close to where Columbus made landfall on the island. If it is full, the receptionist insists that "You will have to stay at my house". She does this as firmly as (later) she declines payment for the room. I've not heard of that happening at the Holiday Inn

Simon Calder

That elusive, smart and affordable hotel is only just around the corner — if you know where to look

There is no reason why we cannot find beautiful places to stay and eat without causing a financial haemorrhage but usually such places are kept closely guarded secrets. Overheard snippets can be very rewarding. When travelling, I've found that simply by listening to the right conversations you can pick up ideas that open up a world of exquisite houses, tiny hotels and unique restaurants: places that are affordable, where you don't have to make do with darting into grand hotel lobbies in a nervous hunt for rich folks' loos.

There is a house where the giant swags of red velvet curtain in the hall came originally from the Doge's Palace in Venice, the rooms are panelled with Burmese teak, the recipe for muffins comes from Mrs Beeton's Cook Book and the current owner's accent is delicate north India meets BBC newscaster circa 1950. The Raja of Karputhala bought the Viceroy's Secretary's house, Simla, North India, in 1938 and the clock stopped then. Reggie, the current owner, is the Raja's grandson and he has made Chapslee House a microcosm of a gentler time.

In 1996, nothing at Chapslee House indicates that Rudyard Kipling's rabbit warren bazaars do not throb and buzz just out of earshot. No one else was staying when I was there; I sat in solitary splendour on the terrace, my tea served in Limoges china accompanied by Mrs Beeton's muffins. I sipped contentedly looking out over the foothills of the Himalayas. Indoors a houseboy was on standby next to the bridge table just in case a playing four, requesting gin fizzes, suddenly materialised from a pocket of the past. His cap and white gloves were perfect whether he was delivering the bed tea at 8am or bringing me a china hot water bottle just before midnight.

Chapslee is rare but not unique. Up on a hill beyond the smog of downtown Istanbul perches the Pera Palace. Little has changed since it was built as an attempt to soften the blow of arriving in Istanbul for travellers from the Orient Express. A delicate blanket of gentility has settled over the hotel where

Chapslee House, Simla can be booked direct on 00 91 177 202 542 or through Distant Frontiers in Delhi (00 91 11 685 8857); Pera Palace, Mesutiyet Cadessi 98/100, Harbiye, Istanbul (00 90 10 251 4560); The Old Winter Palace Hotel, Sharja el Nil, Luxor (00 20 95 580422); Wesley House, High Street, Winchcombe (01242 602366).

Justine Hardy's book, *The Ochre Palace* (Constable) appears in paperback in July.

By Justine Hardy



top: Wesley House; 'the comfort, food and attention are faultless'
bottom: Chapslee House, Simla, North India

Photos: William Curtis

Spending a
weekend away
from your loved
ones doesn't
have to cost.



Garwick	1	17 BB	20-27 Apr	B.A. SLM1A £205
Hastings	2	17 BB	19-26 Apr	B.Millard SLM2 £225
Heathrow	3	21 BB	17 Apr	Air France SLM3 £249
Blun	1	17 BB	27 Apr	Air France SLM4 £195
Blun	3	17 BB	19-26 Apr	Air France SLM5 £195
Manderley	3	27 BB	17 Apr	Air France SLM6 £195

These are just a selection of our CITYSAVERS available. For further details and credit/debit card bookings, call 0171 204 8872 7 days a week (Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Sat/Sun 9am-5pm). CITY BREAKS or see your local travel agent.

Prices are per person sharing, inc. res. deposit to availability. You choose the date & return, no change given on arrival. B&B included. £10 surcharge of £3 per adult. Minimum travel to be booked 4 weeks in advance. Terms & conditions: L1111 03/96 V5/96.



SIMON CALDER

Trying to help or trying it on? Adrian West of north London suspects the latter of Country Holidays, part of the Thomson group.

"My wife and I have had many successful cottage holidays in Britain and abroad. This year, for the first time, we used the brochure of Country Holidays. We chose the cottage we wanted, and booked it over the telephone.

"I was surprised to find, when the booking confirmation came, that the cost of the holiday included both personal insurance and cancellation insurance. This has never been our experience with any other company. The charge for personal insurance was just a try-on — I didn't have to take it. The cancellation insurance was compulsory unless I

obtained equivalent cover elsewhere and provided the company with written details of my insurer and the policy number."

Mr West believes the personal cover is a clear case of *inertia selling*: "We are already covered for normal risks, and a week spent less than 200 miles from home presents no special hazards." Regarding the cancellation charge: "Surely it cannot be any concern of Country Holidays whether or not I am able to take a holiday for which I have already paid. The truth of the matter seems to be that the company is not content with being a letting agent, but thinks it has a captive market as an insurance agent. I think this is sharp practice."

Country Holidays says it routinely offers both cancellation and personal insurance. "If personal insurance is not required, and cancellation insurance is obtained from another source, the matter is not pressed." Cancellation insurance is needed "to protect both the customer and the property owner. This is to ensure in the event of the holiday being cancelled the customer obtains a full refund of the cost of their holiday and the property owner is assured of payment from Country Holidays."

You might think the company, as part of a group which makes much of the fact that it has assets of £6 billion, could afford to be more generous to the property owner in the event of cancellation.

Elvis Presley is travelling all over Europe from a base in Vienna. The singer lends his name to a Boeing 737 which is otherwise known by the unwieldy title OE-LNH, belonging to Lauda Air of Austria. Nikki Lauda, the airline's flamboyant racing-driver founder, has named his fleet after rock greats: Elvis is accompanied by Bob Marley, John Lennon and Janis Joplin, which must be the ultimate *a cappella* band. I am all in favour of more imaginative names than OE-LNH, but unfortunately for an airline, the other thread that binds these stars is that they died too young — as did the people celebrated in Lauda Air's 767 fleet: Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and the recently deceased racing driver, Ayrton Senna.

While the world's airlines are projecting a public image of ever-greater comfort and attention aboard their planes, they can be rather less polite when talking among themselves. This week I overheard staff at a gate at Gatwick being told by walkie-talkie that "three bags are on the way" — a reference to late or "Have A Go" passengers, rather than their appearance.

Once on board, you and me become unwitting members of a "trapped audience". I learn this from the BBC staff newspaper, which reveals that the Corporation has appointed an executive named Colin Jarvis to a new job. He was to be manager for Trapped Audiences, until he persuaded the BBC to adopt the title of head of Inflight Entertainment.

Lisbon
From £99

Amsterdam
From £85

Toronto
From £339

Call now or see your travel agent. All fares listed are return from London, may be subject to limited availability and travel periods. Passenger taxes apply. For details and conditions see ITV Teletext page 380, your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop.

For these and many other World Offers call: 0345 222111

Book by 1st May '96.

WORLD OFFERS
BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

SPRING 1996

you
holiday
a
jigsty
Travel
Luxury
Aruba Island
Davidson's
University
Cochlear, and
desertation. The
newlyweds
had intended to
DUBAI CO
15th Mail Mail

travel adventure

Where compasses fear to point

David Hempleman-Adams suggested something really stupid. Graham Hoyland followed

In the beginning there were three of us: David, Rebecca and me. David Hempleman-Adams had just become the first Briton to walk to the South Pole, solo and unsupported. And like Rebecca Stephens and me, he'd climbed Mount Everest in 1993. Now, just days afterwards, was he suggesting something I knew was really stupid.

"Why don't you come, Graham? Rebecca and I are taking a yacht down to the Magnetic South Pole. No one's ever done both in one season."

This was madness. The Southern Ocean is a savage sea. How would we avoid hitting the icebergs? And what was the Magnetic South Pole, anyway?

Simply put, it's where all the compasses in the world don't point. An imaginary entity, it roams the seas off the coast of Antarctica as unpredictably as the albatrosses that live there. We'd have to locate it by satellite navigation, compasses don't work.

My motive for going was to see whether I was capable of achieving a long-nursed plan to sail non-stop

around the world on each of the seven seas and climb the highest mountain on each continent: the seven summits. This has never been done before. Having climbed what are probably the two hardest mountains, Everest and McKinley, now it was time to try what is certainly the most ferocious of the seven seas.

So that's how we ended up on *Spirit of Sydney*, a 60ft aluminium racing yacht based in Hobart, Tasmania. This was like three yachts turning up at Everest and asking for a guided tour to the top. However, there were also three professional crew, as well as David's father-in-law, Ron, who was a proper sailor.

We attempted to leave land three times before the yacht was even half ready for sea. That set the tone. On the trip holes appeared in the soft metal of the hull - devoured by electrolytic corrosion, so the bilges started to fill with water. We felt sea-sick nearly all the time. The skipper had the three incompetent climbers under his eye on C watch. Somehow the

main sail ripped when half a ton of ice froze on it. All the fresh water in the tanks froze solid because we were sailing through sea-water at -1C. During a storm one night a wave came on board, cut some heavy ropes and stole the life-raft, not leaving a sign.

In my bunk, an 18-inch-wide bookshelf, I tried to sleep, not believing the violence of the sea. A vertiginous swoop of the bows. A surrassation of water heard through the hull plates and *slam!* we hit a wave and *slam!* again. I hit the ceiling of my bunk so hard that for the first time in my life I sustained an injury in bed.

Cooking was an athletic process: dancing in front of a gas cooker, juggling with pans. Ron and I engaged in an unspoken competition to cook the most exotic cuisine possible at sea. We overdid this eventually and the gas ran out, resulting in a spirit stove being pressed into service.

But we got there. We landed on Antarctica, an ice-bound shore of penguins and eternal winds. We saw the hut where the yacht's owner and his wife had spent a year. We sailed for two sunny days, through icebergs sitting in a calm blue sea like a home fleet of dreadnoughts. And we found the Magnetic South Pole at three in the morning last 20 February. It seemed to be a patch of ocean much like the other 3,000 miles we sailed. But above our heads the Southern Lights shimmered from horizon to horizon like a vast green curtain hanging down from space.

And the best bit? I'll never forget the time we three Everesters were crouched in the cockpit in the last 65-knot gale. Violent storm force 11, it would have said on Radio 4. I was steering the mainsail had just ripped for the second time, and we were careering down the backs of 45ft breakers. This moment was so exhilarating that everything seemed to be happening in a slow dream. Like climbing, the danger sharpens your senses to a degree you never experience in normal life. It's sailing, so you're cold, wet and sea-sick. But you feel very, very alive.



Rebecca Stephens at Antarctica Photo: Graham Hoyland

The Wildest Dreams travel challenge

For anyone aged between 18 and 35 there are only a couple of weeks left to apply for funding for your wildest travel dream. Heineken, in association with the *Independent*, is offering up to £25,000 to help those in search of adventure, but the closing date is 26 April.

How to enter

Application forms are available by calling the special hotline number 0171-231 5432, or through the Lonely Planet Internet <http://www.lonelyplanet.com>, au; or from STA Travel shops.

How much is the prize?

Heineken has a total bursary of £25,000 but the awards are at the judges' discretion. They may decide that several travel projects deserve funding, or they may feel one exceptional proposal (say a tour of the 177 countries where Heineken Export is available) should win the full amount...

Give the family a taste of France this Whitsun.

The Whitsun school holiday at the end of May is just a few weeks away. What better than a week in France - visit Disneyland® Paris or Le Mont-St-Michel in Brittany. Over 100 top sites from Normandy to the Côte d'Azur with our own modern mobile homes (shower/wc) or fully-equipped Superunits.

PRICES FOR 2 ADULTS AND UP TO 4 CHILDREN INC FERRY*	
16-22 May Superunit 7 nights from	16-22 May Mobile Home 7 nights from
£149	£274
23-30 May Superunit 7 nights from	23-30 May Mobile Home 7 nights from
£179	£299

Reservations 0181 395 4400
Brochureline 0181 395 8565
or see your travel agent

*Insurance extra

WORLD DEPARTURES

Unlimited travel airpasses are not as widely available as once they were, but three countries still offer them. Ansett New Zealand (0171-434 4071) has a "Scenic Standby" airpass giving unlimited flights throughout the airline's network. Two weeks' travel costs NZ\$699 (about £300), while a month is NZ\$999 (about £430). Canadian Regional has launched a National Pass which costs £189 for a week, £239 for two weeks, and allows unlimited travel from Montreal to the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia. The pass also allows travel into the US, to Washington DC and Seattle. It must be bought in advance from AirPass Sales (01737 555300). This replaces the previous airpasses

offered by Air Ontario and AirBC. The same company also sells a Horizon Air standby pass. It covers the cities on the US West Coast and northern Rocky Mountain states served by this airline, which is a subsidiary of Alaska Airlines.

The Venezuelan national airline Viasa, which is part of the Iberia group, is offering a number of late-availability deals to South America in April. Return flights to Lima and Quito are priced at around £450 through specialist agents such as Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108), Passage to South America (0171-602 9889) and South American Experience (0171-976 5511). Flights are on Viasa from

Heathrow, with a free stopover in Caracas if required. A ticket to the Colombian capital, Bogota, is available for around £420 return.

Bogota is the third airport to be added to the US Department of Transportation's blacklist. Eldorado International Airport is deemed not to "maintain and administer effective security measures. It joins Lagos and Manila on the list.

Cartagena is widely regarded as the most perfectly preserved Spanish colonial city in Latin America. You can visit the Colombian city with Sunvil Discovery (0181-563 8330) as an add-on to a Costa Rica holiday. The extra cost for three or four nights is around £320, on top of about £1,400 for a one-week tour of Costa Rica.

site of the 1883 eruption. The price of £1,172 includes transport and accommodation within Indonesia, but air fares from Britain are extra.

You can be part of the audience at a number of venues around the United States. At the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago tourists can sit in on an archive programme called "Those Were the Days" on Saturdays or "Inside Politics" on Sundays. Call 001 312 629 6019 for bookings. The CNN Center in Atlanta has an afternoon audience show, which you can attend even if you do not take the studio tour. Pick up tickets at the CNN Center in the morning.

THE INDEPENDENT TRAVEL OFFER

South of France Two Weeks for the Price of One

Holidays from £181 for a family of up to six.

The holiday price includes:

- 14 nights accommodation in a Europa mobile home which sleeps up to six people in two bedrooms. Five larger two & three bedroom models available for a supplement (subject to availability).
- Return mid-week St Mel's Line Dover/Calais crossing for car and up to five people.
- Membership of Children's and Teenager's Clubs.
- FREE hot and cold running water, gas and electricity.
- Access to main facilities.

Enjoy two weeks for the price of one in Sunny E-Lan, a lake away from the Mediterranean.

You will stay at Le Lac des Rêves, seven miles from Montpellier. Situated on the shores of a lake separated from the sea by a narrow causeway, the campsite's many facilities include outdoor pool complex with water slide and children's paddling pool, tennis courts, volleyball and archery. There is also a restaurant, takeaway and pizzeria.

As an exclusively Haven site, Le Lac des Rêves has been designed so each mobile home has a large garden area with lots of room for al fresco dining, children's games and sunbathing.

Special rates are available to Le Lac des Rêves guests at the Montpellier Massane Golf Club, designed by Ronald Fream, with a training centre led by David Leadbetter.

The beaches of Camargue, Palavas and the futuristic resort of La Grande Motte are within ten miles. Further afield are Nîmes and the Camargue.

This offer is available on holidays taken throughout the 1996 season, subject to bookings being made by 13 May 1996.

Two Weeks for the Price of One

Low Season from £181 Peak Season (20 July - 16 August) from £704



This travel offer has been arranged in conjunction with Haven Europe.

To book, or for a brochure, please telephone Haven Europe on 01703 466111, quoting FIN01 or post the coupon to: Haven Europe, Northgate Marina, Northgate Road, Hayling Island, Hants PO11 1NH.

The Haven offer, Le Lac des Rêves Holiday, Northgate Marina, Northgate Road, Hayling Island, Hants, PO11 1NH.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

INT 312

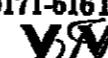
A Special Announcement

A Week on the Nile - 7 nights from £395

Cruise between Aswan and Luxor on board the MS Ra

Rs. full board, excursions, local guides, port charges, port taxes, dinner, fuel included. Prices are subject to change.

0171-6161000



VOYAGES JULES VERNE

21 Dorset Square London NW1

Tel: 0171-4714741 17-18 40450

Oct 17, 14, 21 1985 - Oct 28 1985

November 4, 11, 18, 25 1985

Dec 2, 9, 16, 23 1985 - Dec 30 1985

Single cabin £150

Middle deck £65 - Upper deck £125

Abu Simbel (High road) £65

Includes: 7-night cruise, 7 nights on board

conditioned with private bathrooms.

For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURES & PRICES

1996 Mondays - per person in twin

May 6, 20 6/30 June 3, 10, 17, 24 £395

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £395

Includes: 7-night cruise, 7 nights on board

conditioned with private bathrooms.

For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURES & PRICES

1996 Mondays - per person in twin

May 6, 20 6/30 June 3, 10, 17, 24 £395

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £395

Includes: 7-night cruise, 7 nights on board

conditioned with private bathrooms.

For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURES & PRICES

1996 Mondays - per person in twin

May 6, 20 6/30 June 3, 10, 17, 24 £395

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £395

Includes: 7-night cruise, 7 nights on board

conditioned with private bathrooms.

For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURES & PRICES

1996 Mondays - per person in twin

May 6, 20 6/30 June 3, 10, 17, 24 £395

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £395

Includes: 7-night cruise, 7 nights on board

conditioned with private bathrooms.

For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURES & PRICES

1996 Mondays - per person in twin

May 6, 20 6/30 June 3, 10, 17, 24 £395

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £395

Includes: 7-night cruise, 7 nights on board

conditioned with private bathrooms.

For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURES & PRICES

1996 Mondays - per person in twin

May 6, 20 6/30 June 3, 10, 17, 24 £395

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 £395

Includes: 7-night cruise, 7 nights on board

conditioned with private bathrooms.

For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

DEPARTURES & PRICES

Tel: 0171 293 2222

travel • overseas

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Because we think the world of you ...

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

(excl taxes)	one way	return	one way	return	one way	return		
from		from	from		from			
SYDNEY	£229	£499	NEW YORK	£25	£189	JOHANNESBURG	£249	£115
PERTH	£292	£583	BOSTON	£129	£189	HARARE	£249	£165
AUCKLAND	£352	£615	FLORIDA	£159	£245	NAIROBI	£145	£249
BANGKOK	£205	£435	LOS ANGELES	£195	£245	CARIO	£145	£242
HONG KONG	£237	£435	SAN FRANCISCO	£195	£245	DUBAI	£204	£341
SINGAPORE	£225	£429	TORONTO	£138	£234	RIQ	£265	£449
BALI	£264	£440	VANCOUVER	£249	£249	PARIS	£159	£269
SAIGON	£297	£485	CARIBBEAN	£173	£228	AMSTERDAM	£72	£22
TOKYO	£286	£545	MEXICO CITY	£263	£362	GENEVA	£88	£28
DELHI	£216	£347	KATHMANDU	£265	£373	AROUND THE WORLD	£677	£677

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £33 • USA £31 • AFRICA £37 • PACIFIC £42 • ASIA £30

USA CAR HIRE FROM £21 PER DAY CALL NOW FOR OUR NEW WORLD DIRECTORY

All shops are open Mon-Sat 9-6pm • Thurs 9-7pm • Sun 10-6pm

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

Create your own dream holiday:
London - Los Angeles - Tahiti - Rarotonga - Sydney
(surface to) Cairns - Auckland - Fiji - Hawaii - London

£759

Out of Africa - Nairobi £249 return

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • WORLDWIDE ITINERARIES

Trailfinders have no credit card charges

worldwide attention to detail

42-50 East Court Road • LONDON NW 6FT

Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3366

Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5480

194 Kensington High Street • LONDON NW 7RG

Long Haul Flights: 0171-938 3339

Transatlantic & European: 0171-938 3232

First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

22-24 The Priory Queenway • BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS

Worldwide Flights: 0121-236 1234

48 Corn Street • BRISTOL BS1 1HQ

Worldwide Flights: 0117-929 9000

254-284 Sauchiehall Street • GLASGOW G2 3EH

Worldwide Flights: 0141-353 2224

58 Deansgate • MANCHESTER M3 2EF

Worldwide Flights: 0161-639 3434

First & Business Class: 0161-639 3434

... people think the world of us!

Exotic Holidays



FAR AWAY FLIGHTS

FROM ONLY £199

TO OVER 100 COUNTRIES

JEPY is 150

travel europe

Demons and nuns at the end of the world

In Romania this weekend Orthodox Christians are celebrating Easter in glorious churches where the snow is still melting. By Richard McClure

Galina's words rang in my ears as the train tumbled with the ferocious blizzard sweeping down from the Russian plains. "Here, you'll freeze without this," she had said that morning, handing me a sleeping bag. "It's the end of the world up there."

She spoke from experience. Having worked for 15 years at the state central heating company, she had little faith in Romania's ramshackle pipes and boilers. They could not be trusted to work in Bucharest, she said, let alone Moldavia — the portion of Romania facing the newly independent republic of Moldova across the former Soviet border.

Her concern was echoed by the passengers sharing my compartment on the six-hour journey north to Suceava, the old princely capital of Moldavia. I was on my way to visit the quartet of painted monasteries that lie among the foothills of the eastern Carpathians.

In late spring and summer, all four monasteries — Voronet, Sucevita, Humor and Moldovita — can be easily reached by hiking along well-marked tracks which cross the spruce-covered landscape of

bears and lynx. At this time of the year, travel is a far more treacherous proposition. The monasteries are remote, the trails impassable, the campsites closed and the bus timetable designed for maximum inconvenience.

Whatever the temporary hardships, the Orthodox monasteries are too magnificent to miss. Built in the 15th and 16th centuries when Moldavia was Christendom's last refuge from the rampaging Ottoman empire, each is adorned with biblical scenes of epic proportions. Uniquely, the sacred tableaux cover not only the inside walls, but every inch of the exteriors, their radiant colours shielded from the corrosive winds by vast wooden eaves.

By the time the train limped into Suceava, my slight trepidation had been eased by Diana, a student returning home for half-term. Aghast at my poorly laid plans, she invited me to stay at her family house in Radauti. Her father, Luca, a local doctor, owned a summer cabin in Sucevita and would be happy to accompany me — weather permitting.

Ten miles from the Ukrainian border and within striking distance of the monasteries, Radauti is a worthwhile

base. The next morning, to whet my appetite, I explored the town's 14th-century church — the oldest in Moldavia. Although the frescoes in the dark interior had been obliterated by centuries of candle-smoke, it held other treasures, including, in one darkened corner, an ornate casket where the bones of a saint lay on golden bier.

That afternoon we set off for Sucevita in Luca's silver Dacia, Romania's functional equivalent of the Lada or Trabant.

The snowfall had reduced the road to a trough of sludge a few yards across and the only traffic was a procession of carts, loaded with logs and pulled by a brace of horses with scarlet tassels swinging from their bridles. From the window, I saw gypsies' houses painted in their lucky colours of red and green and lagers balancing precariously as they shovelled snow from their roofs.

Slowly, the whitewashed cornfields yielded to the slopes of hills which in summer months are dressed in wild mushrooms and mountain flowers. Luca dropped me off a short distance from the monastery; he had jobs to attend to at the cabin further along the valley. Sucevita is the largest of the monas-

teries and, like the others, protected by UNESCO. Enclosed within a formidable outer wall of battlements and turrets, it is more castle than church. The stillness of my approach — broken only by the competing cries of wood pigeons and crows — ill-prepared me for the scenes of infernal torment as I entered the courtyard.

Ahead, stretching 20 feet along the north wall, a Ladder of Virtue ascended towards heaven. A host of angels assisted righteous souls to the celestial city, while monstrous demons wrenched sinners from the rungs and cast them into the fiery pit. Beneath the fresco, nuns swathed in black passed to and fro like figures brought magically to life from the walls. One unlocked the monastery doors for me to step inside, but its cave-like chill took my breath away and I left quickly, shivering.

At his cabin, Luca had lit a fire. Dispensing whisky and fruit, he talked of his patients' ailments and Moldavia's timber industry which is polluting the rivers and diminishing the forest with indecent haste. Night had fallen by the time we made the journey home but the

rickety traffic had not abated and our way back was illuminated by the single lanterns tied to each cart. Twice, as the car edged past nervous mares, we slid off the road and got wedged firmly in the snow.

The other monasteries lack the sweeping grandeur of Sucevita but are no less breathtaking. Seen in a morning sun full of spring promise, Voronet's Last Judgement dazzles the eye with its mysterious blue pigment, the exact composition of which has yet to be determined. From here, it is only a few miles along the valley to Humor (a walk possible even in winter). The most modest of the monasteries, its tranquil setting belies the scenes of frenzied slaughter on the walls: Turkish heads roll under the axe as the infidel fall victim to Christian wrath.

A few days later, a wizened stallholder at Radatu's weekly market refused to sell me a dozen wilting flowers for my hosts. "Twelve is for dead people," he admonished. But his suggestion of 13 blooms gave rise to my own latent superstition and we settled on 11. In Moldavia you don't want to go upsetting the spirits.

Main picture:
the
monastery of
Humor. The
tranquil
setting belies
the frenzy of
slaughter on
its walls.
Detail: fresco
from
Sucevita
Photographs:
Richard
McClure



How to get there

British Airways (0345 222111) flies daily except Sunday from Gatwick to Bucharest; the World Offer fare is £256 including tax. More cheaply, you can fly from London to Bucharest on the Romanian national carrier Tarom for £211 return through Ace Travel (01494 463324).

As an alternative to the six-hour train journey from Bucharest to Suceava, there are flights daily except Sunday from Bucharest.

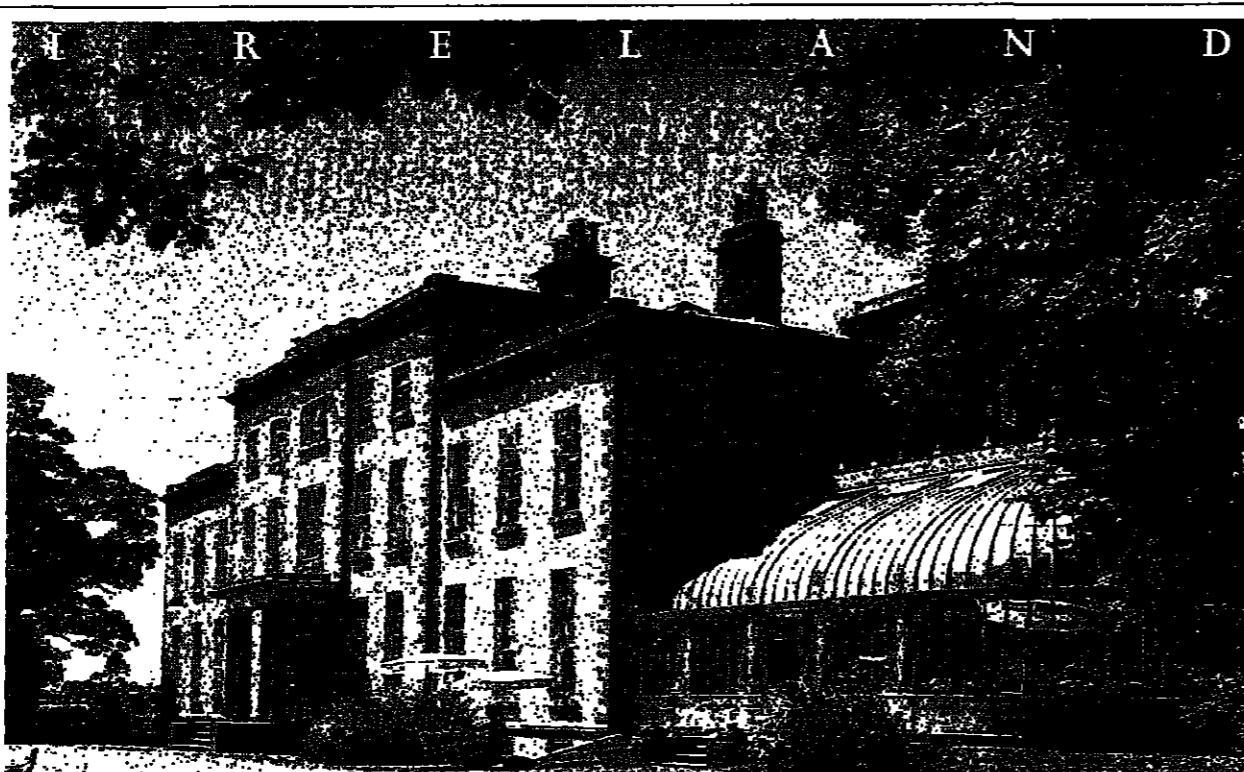
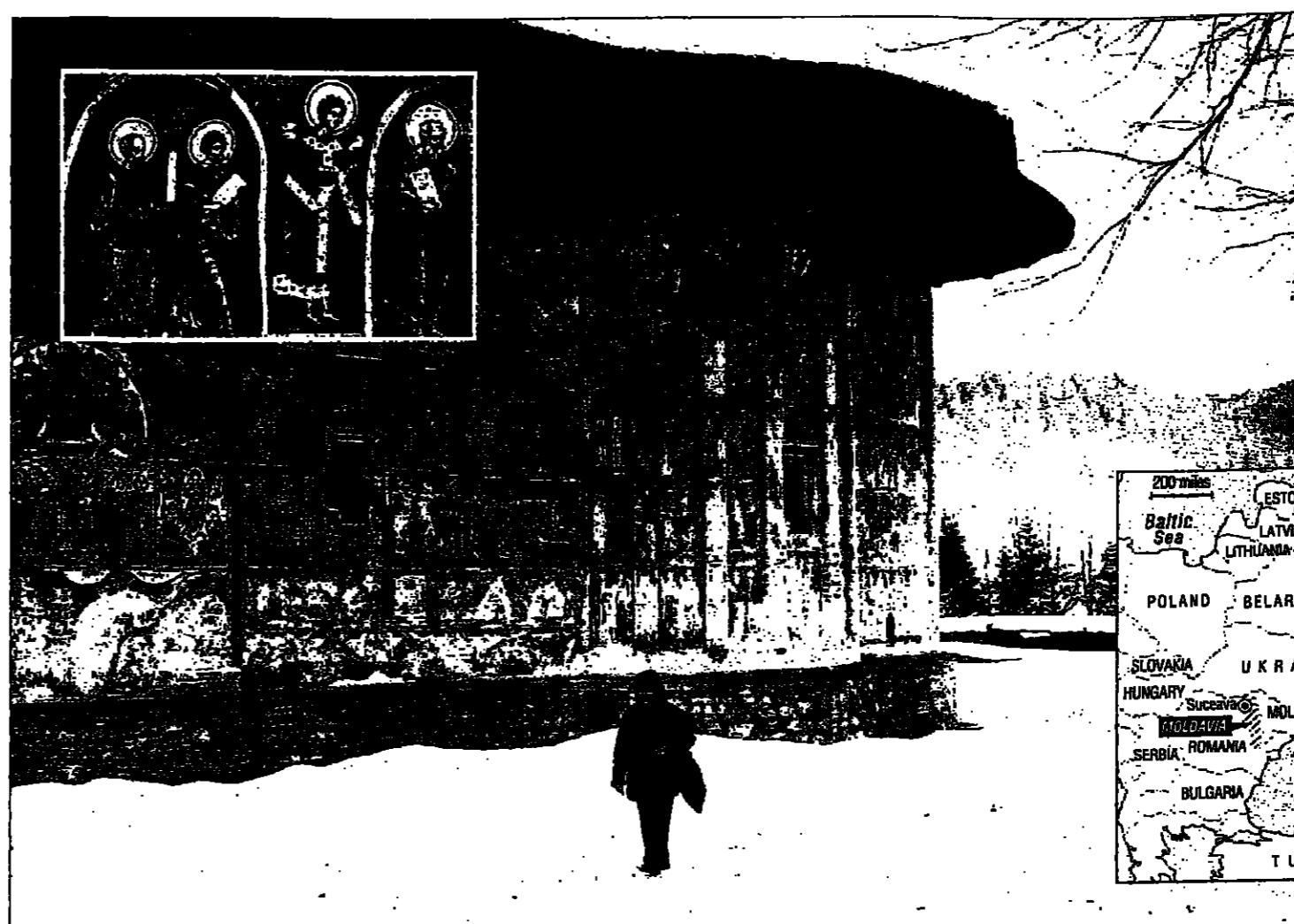
A fly-drive holiday with Intra (0171-323 3305) costs £347 per person for one week, inclusive of a flight on Tarom and hire of a Ford Fiesta, based on two people sharing.

Who to ask

The Romanian Tourist Board, 83a Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE (0171-224 3692) has a brochure on cultural centres in Moldova, and can also supply a useful road map of the country.

What to read

The Rough Guide to Romania by Dan Richardson and Tim Burford (£9.99).



Living splendidly.
Residential courses from just £26.

From
£26
per person per night.
Stena Line
HOLIDAYS
0990 747474

SELF-DRIVE TOURING HOLIDAY

Return ferry travel with car and B&B accommodation at farmhouses or towns and country homes. Hotel upgrade also available.
Based on 2 adults sharing, staying eight nights.

From
£89*
return.
BRITISH AIRWAYS
Express
Flights operated by the independent carrier Main Airlines (Europe) Limited.
0345 222111

LONDON STANSTED TO WATERFORD

Flights between Stansted and Waterford.
*Excludes passenger taxes. Not listed is subject to availability applicable for travel between 1st and 30th June 1996 and must be booked by 1st May 1996. Must stay a Sunday night and restrictions apply.

An extra night
FREE
in Ireland.
CRESTA
0990 561 814

HOTEL HOLIDAYS

Stay a minimum number of nights (from 3-7 nights) — see brochure for details — and get one night free in up to 75% of our listed hotels.
Offers vary according to hotel and time of year.

The Irish Tourist Boards, North and South, have got together to open up a world of possibilities on the Emerald Isle.

And whether you prefer an active break or a thoroughly tranquil one, tie it in with some of Ireland's legendary hospitality. Our finer hotels, both in the country and the cities, bring together excellent cuisine, sumptuous rooms and a welcome you won't find anywhere else in the world.

You'll also discover we know the meaning of good value better than most. So talk to us! Call us free on 0800 00 96 96 and we'll send you our free holiday pack. We're waiting for your call right now.

Ireland Holidays '96
The best of Ireland from top to bottom

CHICAGO STORES

FROM CLASSIC HOTELS TO SWANKY MOTELS...

VISITORS FIND ONE CLASS OF HOSPITALITY. FIRST CLASS.

STRIKE UP A FRIENDSHIP WITH CHICAGO

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEND THE COUPON TO:
ILLINOIS BUREAU OF TOURISM, 20 BARCLAY ROAD, CROYDON CR0 1LN. TEL: 081 680 0122. INTERNET: <http://www.enjoyillinois.com>

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

kerala
india

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Tel: 0171 293 2222

property • residential

New Homes

New Homes

New Homes

Country Property

**NO DEPOSIT.
NO PROBLEM!**

At Fairclough Homes, we like to remove obstacles to make every move as smooth as possible. That's why to us No Deposit means No Problem. Even without the 5% deposit, you still have the freedom to enjoy all the comforts of a new Fairclough home because, subject to status, we'll pay it for you. Those with a deposit can use it to take advantage of our HomeMaker scheme to further enhance the specification of their new home.

**Free
TO
Move****PERSONALISE
YOUR HOME
with**

Buying a new home is a very personal decision, which is why we offer Fairclough's award-winning HomeMaker scheme. With the freedom to choose from a wide range of options - some free - to enhance the already high specifications, you can tailor your new home to suit your personal tastes and requirements.

BERKSHIRE**BRACKNELL****MANOR GRANGE**

Traditional style 4 bedroom family houses in a quiet, secluded historic setting within a mile of Bracknell town centre.

Tel: 01344 320222 (24 hours)

CAMbridgeshire**CANTON****HEATHERBROOK**

Only 5 miles 4 bedroom detached houses remain from £195,500

Tel: 01223 210265 (24 hours)

FORDHAM**SUMMERFIELDS**

Only 15 luxury detached 4 bedroom houses from £210,500

Tel: 01223 210265 (24 hours)

HISTON**THE GRANGE**

A prestige development of just 20 luxury 4 and 5 bedroom houses from £195,500

Tel: 01223 210265 (24 hours)

OVER**HARVEST MEADOW**

A development of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses just minutes from Cambridge city centre

Tel: 01223 210265 (24 hours)

ESSEX**CHAFFORD HUNDRED**

2, 3 and 4 bed houses very near Chafford shopping centre and railway station.

Tel: 01708 866222 (24 hours)

ROWAN GATE**WADDESDALE**

1 and 2 bedroom apartments and 2 and 3 bedroom houses in a convenient and lively country town just 1 mile from Basildon and 15 miles from London

Tel: 01708 866222 (24 hours)

HERTFORDSHIRE**TADLEY**

1 and 2 bedroom apartments and 2 and 3 bedroom houses in a convenient and lively country town just 1 mile from Basildon and 15 miles from London

Tel: 01708 866222 (24 hours)

HEATHSIDE**WADDESDALE**

1 and 2 bedroom apartments and 2 and 3 bedroom houses in a convenient and lively country town just 1 mile from Basildon and 15 miles from London

Tel: 01708 866222 (24 hours)

CLACTON ON SEA**SPINNAKER COURT**

1 and 2 bedrooms as new apartments situated along the Promenade

Tel: 01255 416542 (24 hours)

SHAMPSHIRE**TADLEY**

1 and 2 bedroom apartments and 2 and 3 bedroom houses in a convenient and lively country town just 1 mile from Basildon and 15 miles from London

Tel: 01708 866222 (24 hours)

MARPENDEN**PENSBURY**

A unique development of new and refurbished apartments set in a tree lined area

Tel: 01493 870000 (24 hours)

HARPENDEN**PENSBURY**

A unique development of new and refurbished apartments set in a tree lined area

Tel: 01493 870000 (24 hours)

RAINFHAM**WELLINGTON PLACE**

2 bed houses in a quiet cul de sac near Lakeside Shopping Centre

From £50,495

Tel: 01704 522056 (24 hours)

CHURCH LANGLEY**PENBROOK PLACE**

2 bed houses and 2 and 3 bedroom houses in a convenient new village setting

From £54,950

Tel: 01279 657530 (24 hours)

WICKFORD**THE HAWTHORNS**

Development of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses situated close to the A10 offering easy access to London from £59,950

Tel: 01279 503969 (24 hours)

WICKFORD**STORTFORD**

A small development of luxury 4 bed detached houses

From £64,950

Tel: 01992 504281 (24 hours)

SALES OFFICES OPEN 10AM - 5PM 7 DAYS A WEEK**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD****THE WILLOWS**

Coast side setting comprising of 2 bed apartments, 4 bed semi houses, 3 and 4 bed detached houses from £59,950

Tel: 01763 226001 (24 hours)

HERTFORD**PRINCES MEWS**

A development of 2 and 3 bedroom houses close to the A10 offering easy access to London from £69,450

Tel: 01279 503969 (24 hours)

STEVENAGE**HANOVER CHASE**

Attractive new development with 3, 4 and 5 bed detached houses set in a peaceful residential area on the southern side of Stevenage

From £79,450

Tel: 01460 716550 (24 hours)

SEVENOAKS**LONGFORD MILL**

Properties 3, 4 and 5 bed houses on the outskirts of Sevenoaks

From TBA

Tel: 0173 394 3011 (24 hours)

LEEDS**WAVENY PLACE**

High specification 1 and 2 bedroom apartments in convenient location with good rail links to Watford, Sevenoaks and London

From £51,750

Tel: 0898 877 9005 (24 hours)

KENT**PADDOCK WOOD**

High specification 1 and 2 bedroom apartments in convenient location with good rail links to Watford, Sevenoaks and London

From £51,750

Tel: 0898 877 9005 (24 hours)

SALES OFFICES OPEN 10AM - 5PM 7 DAYS A WEEK

Fairclough Homes
Come home to quality

a member of the **ABECC GROUP**

OPEN WEEKEND
SAT 13TH SUN 14TH APRIL

*Due to the
RECOVERSHIP OF FORMER PURCHASER*
**THE ULTIMATE
OPPORTUNITY**
now presents itself at
COUNTY HALL

LUXURIOUS
ONE BED APARTMENTS
IN THE NORTH COURT
FROM £99,000

STATE OF THE ART
SECURITY*

OPENING RESIDENTIAL
SALES OFFICE OPEN 7 DAYS
10.30am-5.30pm

SALES OFFICE OPEN 7 DAYS
10.30am-5.30pm

SECURE CAR PARKING
AVAILABLE

OPENING RESIDENTIAL
SALES OFFICE OPEN 7 DAYS
10.30am-5.30pm

SECURE CAR PARKING
AVAILABLE

OPENING RESIDENTIAL
SALES OFFICE OPEN 7 DAYS
10.30am-5.30pm

SECURE CAR PARKING
AVAILABLE

*For your convenience Independent Financial Advisers & Solicitors will be in attendance. Society savings is treated as part of the service charge. We reserve the right to alter specifications & prices without notice. The photograph shows a model of the existing building and does not indicate the position or effect of any additional buildings which may be erected in the future.



A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF PURE MODERNIST
ARCHITECTURE

In the heart of Clerkenwell's restaurantland

- Dual aspect apartments
- Terraces
- Ground, First and Second Floor Apartments and One Penthouse available
- From £99,500 to £295,000 STC
- 750 up to 1865 sq ft approx

OPEN TO VIEW SAT & SUN
1pm to 4pm or by appointment

FOR A BROCHURE OR TO VIEW
TELEPHONE 0171 713 1544

THE WARNER LOFT BUILDING
WARNER STREET LONDON EC1

London Property

London Residential Property Gallery

On Sunday 19th May 1996, the Management of **London Residential Property** will be carrying several properties exclusively to London Residential Property. This includes its unique **Loft Style Apartments**.

Please contact the Sales Team on 0171 293 2222.

Booking Deadline: Tuesday 7th May 1996

For further information call 0171 293 2222.

London Property

Top floor of old piano factory, 1,200 sq ft. Residential/Studio.

Truss ceiling, large windows, high ceilings, open plan kitchen/living room, separate WC, double glazing, gas central heating.

Large roof terrace with views over London.

£72,000

Tel: 0171 293 2222

Flatshare

CAT LOVER, F.24+ to rent sunny m.

& share 3 bed flat with 2 F. All

mod cons. 2 mins Tumtup Lane

0.5 miles to Islington Sq. £250 p.m. incl bills except phone.

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

0171 293 2222

A full recovery from major surgery

The Royal Naval Hospital in Plymouth is an example of how to redevelop an historic building without ruining it. By Mary Wilson

It is unusual for a property to have had one careful owner for more than 200 years, but the old Royal Navy Hospital buildings, at Stonehouse, two minutes west of the centre of Plymouth, can certainly boast that. And that owner, the Ministry of Defence, has left them in superb condition.

The hospital was constructed in the 1750s, the first to be built with separate ward blocks to avoid contagion. It is set in 24½ acres, surrounded by an 18ft high stone wall. In the late 18th century, further residential accommodation was built, substantial five-storey limestone buildings and cottages, and these are now for sale as family homes. The central part of the site, meanwhile, will be commercial - the Chamber of Commerce and Business Link are future tenants. The eastern end has been taken by St Dunstone Abbey Girls School. Work there is frantically being completed before the new term starts next week.

The site has an unusually low ratio of bricks to mortar to open space, and the new owner values this highly. Charles Howeson, a naval officer for 27 years, left the service six years ago. He was looking for property in the South-west of England for Peaseston, a Scottish Investment Group, which prides itself on its environmental and conservation concern.

"I was part of a local initiative to attract investment to this part of the world," he explains. "When the hospital was vacated, I recommended that this would be an opportunity for the company to be involved in some responsible regeneration."

"Peaseston was interested in long-term investment, so I devolved the residential side to my company, Crown Hill Estates. We exchanged contracts last February and I then had five months in which to make my business plan stack up before we completed."

Howeson and his wife, Emma, initially raised the money from the local Barclays Bank, with the intention of selling four houses and one commercial property by August. This they did, and all at the asking prices. "I knew Solar Wetsuits was looking for new premises, so I approached them; a senior local government officer from Plymouth City Council obviously knew about it and had been banging on my door as soon as he heard of my involvement; and the managing director of the merchant bank contacted me, too. Another house went to an ex-marine and his sister."



The Royal Naval Hospital

Although Howeson says he paid over the market price for the residential element of the site, he has already made a sizeable profit. But he is also very concerned about the environment. "My role is to protect the place," he says. "We have put in new services and Eurocell has installed the newest fibre-optics for telephones and so on. The company is moving into the gate house next month.

"We are also putting in a new road and have restored the jetty which now just over a grass 'sea'. One of our first jobs was to deinstitutionalise the place.

"There was a forest of signs to remove, including all the ones which said 'Don't Walk On The Grass'."

The site is now called Millfields, the

original name of the place in the Domesday Book. It feels remarkably peaceful, a quality dependent in no small part on the excellent security which is proving a definite selling point. There is one entrance only, with guards on duty 24 hours a day. Burglar alarms and fire alarms are also directly connected to them.

Each property is sold on a 999-year lease with protective covenants such as no boats and caravans. "The first properties were completed at the same time, so the buyers all had a hand in moulding their lease," says Howeson.

A collection of outbuildings has been bought by John Chaddler, a property developer from Sussex, who was born in Plymouth. He is converting these into 10

one-, two- and three-bedroom flats. Three of them have already sold. "Where else in Plymouth, could you buy a flat with this sort of security?" he says. "If these were in Sussex or London, they would be double the price."

Tony Allen, an ex-marine, has jointly bought the Commander's House with his sister. "I knew the way the MOD looked after its premises and so I was not surprised when we discovered 10 original fireplaces hidden away - and an old range in the basement, also boarded up," he says. "In the laundry room, we found the original flagstones and huge old brick fireplace."

Howeson is adamant that only the right people will live here. "It is like a ship," he says, "the first people who

move in are the ones who create the ambience of the place. I refused someone who offered a lot more than the asking price because I did not think he would be happy in the long term." Which is a polite way of saying that he was just not suitable. Howeson is therefore delighted that an ex-naval nurse who worked here and whose father was a doctor at the hospital, has just bought one of the houses.

Prices of homes at Millfields range from £38,000 for a one-bedroom flat to £75,000 for a two-bedroom cottage and £265,000 for the Admirals House. For more details call May & Trout, 01752 225601 or Constables, 01752 668242.

Househunter
Chipping Campden, Gloucs



The most unlikely house in Mayfair, central London, is for sale. This Gothic-style castle - which has been rented in the past by many a showbiz star, including Cher - was built in 1930 by Frederick Etchells. It is approached down a long passage between two other buildings, also devised by Etchells, and totally hidden from view. Once inside the arched front door, you are transported back in time. The rooms are oak-panelled with intricate friezes and ceiling mouldings. There are Tudor-style fireplaces, stained-glass windows and charming carved heads on the oak banisters. The curtains and four-poster beds are also for sale. The only concession to the 20th century are the bathrooms. The four-bedroom house, which is Grade II-listed and has a terrace on its castellated roof, is being sold by Wetherell (0171 493 6935) for £795,000 for a 22-year lease.

For what it's worth

The latest figures from the National House Building Council (NHBC) show that in the first quarter of 1996 housing starts are down 9 per cent from 42,277 to 38,455 and completions are down 5 per cent (40,161 down from 42,361). But the council is not despondent.

"We are still cautiously optimistic that the market will improve," says a spokesman. "The figures are slightly disappointing, but the rate of decline is slowing. In the last quarter of 1995, housing starts were down 20 per cent and completions down 8 per cent." The latest reduction in mortgage interest rates and slight house price rises indicates that the market is poised to take off again, albeit in a very gentle fashion.

Tel: 0171 293 2222

classified • personal

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Independent Hearts

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number,
c/o The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

drawing down the moon
THE INTELLIGENT PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY
"the agency people rave about"
Drawing down the moon

Adam & Eve Consultancy
0171-937 6263

Dateline
"The highest profile agency..."
Dateline Consultancy
For details in absolute confidence: Dept N, Dateline,
25 Abingdon Rd, London NW1 4UL
(01869) 324 100

SIRIUS
The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency
The Local service operating Nationwide
for the intelligent, articulate and well educated
Join the Largest agency with personal interviews and BS 5750
24 hour Freephone 0800 072 0075 brochure line
Ask for Free CD or Tape with further info
London North West Scotland North East
0772 220 0000 0161 220 2204
South West West Midlands 0121 704 0200
0117 942 9500 01904 611021 0115 924 1113
FREEPOST 308 London EC1B 1SY Office runs 8.30am to 10pm 7 days a week



INDEPENDENT HEARTS

The Independent Way to Meet New People

By placing an advertisement in The Independent Hearts section of *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday* you will immediately be in contact with over 1.66 million readers.* The cost for your advertisement, published in the first available editions of Saturday "Weekend" and Sunday "Real Life" sections is just £5.00 per line including V.A.T. (Box No 1 is an additional £1.00, please cross here if you do not require a Box No 1).

Simply write your advertisement in the spaces below and fill in the coupon - Minimum 2 lines. (N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
Telephone (daytime):.....
Signature:.....

All advertisements must be prepaid. Cheques should be made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit my:

Access Visa Amex Diners Club Card expiry date: _____

Card no:

Send all advertisements to:

Independent Hearts, The Independent, 19th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Telephone 0171 293 2347 Fax: 0171 293 2505

This offer is only open to private advertisers. Trade enquiries are welcome on the above telephone number.

*NRS Jan - June '95

"1ST ENCOUNTERS"

Looking to widen your social horizons or meet your ideal partner? How have your first encounters been to date? Call 0171 394 5755 and make this a lasting encounter!

THE VILLA
THE NON-STOP
INTERACTIVE PARTY!
0039 59 00 33
THE VILLA
INTERACTIVE PARTY!
0039 59 00 33
THE VILLA
INTERACTIVE PARTY!

the Phone Cafe
INSTANT CONNECTIONS
TO 45 WOMEN
ON LINE
0891 70 80 57
WOMEN CALL FROM 1P A NIGHT
0171 400 6657

NOTICE TO READERS

The Independent cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will.

When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

Newspaper Publishing plc

requests that:
Commercial Organisations
do not send material
to our
Private Advertisers

To advertise
in this
section
please call
0171 293
2713.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We are delighted to hear from all the couples who have met and married through INDEPENDENT HEARTS.

Wishing you and all our other advertisers every success and happiness for the future.
INDEPENDENT HEARTS

THE DINNER CLUB (Est. '88) The nations only countrywide dining club for the intelligent, articulate and well educated people aged 25+.

Tel: (01244) 350537. Business opportunities also available

Ask for Free CD or Tape with further info

London North West Scotland North East
0772 220 0000 0161 220 2204

South West West Midlands 0121 704 0200
0117 942 9500 01904 611021 0115 924 1113

FREEPOST 308 London EC1B 1SY Office runs 8.30am to 10pm 7 days a week

WEBSITE: www.dinnerclub.co.uk

E-mail: dinnerclub@btconnect.com

INTERNET: www.dinnerclub.co.uk

ATTACHED MAN: (Est. '89) The nations only countrywide dining club for the intelligent, articulate and well educated people aged 25+.

Tel: (01244) 350537. Business opportunities also available

Ask for Free CD or Tape with further info

London North West Scotland North East
0772 220 0000 0161 220 2204

South West West Midlands 0121 704 0200
0117 942 9500 01904 611021 0115 924 1113

FREEPOST 308 London EC1B 1SY Office runs 8.30am to 10pm 7 days a week

WEBSITE: www.attachedman.co.uk

INTERNET: www.attachedman.co.uk

ATTACHED WOMAN: (Est. '90) The nations only countrywide dining club for the intelligent, articulate and well educated people aged 25+.

Tel: (01244) 350537. Business opportunities also available

Ask for Free CD or Tape with further info

London North West Scotland North East
0772 220 0000 0161 220 2204

South West West Midlands 0121 704 0200
0117 942 9500 01904 611021 0115 924 1113

FREEPOST 308 London EC1B 1SY Office runs 8.30am to 10pm 7 days a week

WEBSITE: www.attachedwoman.co.uk

INTERNET: www.attachedwoman.co.uk

ATTACHED CHILDREN: (Est. '91) The nations only countrywide dining club for the intelligent, articulate and well educated people aged 25+.

Tel: (01244) 350537. Business opportunities also available

Ask for Free CD or Tape with further info

London North West Scotland North East
0772 220 0000 0161 220 2204

South West West Midlands 0121 704 0200
0117 942 9500 01904 611021 0115 924 1113

FREEPOST 308 London EC1B 1SY Office runs 8.30am to 10pm 7 days a week

WEBSITE: www.attachedchildren.co.uk

INTERNET: www.attachedchildren.co.uk

z y g o s i s

the bringing together...
THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY

Professional people often don't meet other people in their chosen social circle.

That's where Zygosis can help.

We are highly selective, operate nationally, are confidential, discreet and produce results.

We look forward to your call.

LONDON 0171 629 6779 0131 586 9665 01625 582800 0191 261 2224

SCOTLAND 0113 245 8787 0900 143078 01223 858514 01622 691300

NORTH WEST 01925 870000 01253 582600 0191 261 2224

NORTH EAST 0161 261 2224 01625

money

+90% and 1st out
of all 1131 unit
trusts over 1 year*

+239%
over
5 years*

'What Investment'
Unit Trust Fund
Manager 1995

'Money Observer'
Best International
Growth Trust 1995

Micropal
sector award for
1995 International
Equity Growth

For further information on this unit trust contact your independent financial adviser. Alternatively call us on 0345 775511 or complete the coupon below.

framlington

Please send me details of the top performing Framlington Health Fund. Return the coupon to: Framlington Unit Management Limited, Freepost, 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2B 2TT.

Title _____ Name _____
Surname _____
Address _____

Postcode _____

113/04/96

*All performance offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1/4/96. International Equity Growth Sector source Micropal, Health Fund +239% and ranked 4th out of 890 unit trusts over 5 years. Advertisement issued by Framlington Unit Management Limited, regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Member of AUTIE. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not receive back the full amount invested which may in part be due to exchange rate fluctuations.

The traditional view
is that the market
worries over a

Labour administration
until it has won, then
realises this means
greater public
expenditure.

This time is different

What a fine old ship the UK economy is. She may be old but she's made from solid British oak. Unfortunately she does appear to be somewhat leaky and in spite of a drastic overhaul since 1979 her equipment doesn't seem to be quite as modern as her neighbours.

Discipline among the crew has been dramatically improved even if the differences between officers and crew are more sharply defined. There now, however, appears to be some difficulty ahead, as the crew in this democratically run ship is shortly to re-elect its captain and officers.

Until this is over she is likely to be less certain in her course and there may even be an amount of sail flapping. However, once the good governance of the vessel has been decided she will again be able to make her way and be possibly set on a new course.

The question, however, is whether she is in the right shape to compete with some of the more elegant looking continental galleons around her, and come to that, if she wishes to sail with this squadron of other ships or make her own way?

As investors in this enterprise we need to be assured that the master is clear about what he is intending to achieve, and that our monies are safe with him and his crew.

Already we can see our markets being affected by the impending election. Whether it is based on logic or emotion, share prices will inevitably be influenced. Some, such as the water, electricity and power stocks will be really quite sensitive, but other privatisations have little need to be concerned.

I include companies like BAA and

JUSTIN URQUHART-STEWART
INVESTMENTS

British Airways here. These companies have been in the private domain for such a period now and have created their own profile and culture, that most people can hardly remember them as being publicly owned at all.

The traditional view of an election, where a change of party is possible, is that the market worries over a Labour administration until it has won, and then realises that this means greater public expenditure, after which it forgets its concerns and recovers. This time the situation is different. Both "captains-elect" will have the same problem - money - or rather the shortage of it. The ability of either administration to increase public expenditure is severely restricted because the public sector borrowing requirement is still standing at just over 4 per cent of gross domestic product, and, if we are to conform to the Treaty of Maastricht then this has to reduce to 3 per cent.

So, whoever wins they may set a new course, but it's likely to be very similar to the old one. For the markets though, the main concern is uncertainty. We can

already see this reflected in the UK market, when in the first quarter the FTSE 100 underperformed after last year's exhaustive rise. And we only have to look at the US market to see that their rise has continued - so far.

They too have an election. Clinton maybe ahead in the polls but the only dead certainty is that certainty is dead. I feel it is very likely that with the increasing froth of their campaigning, their markets will also react to the uncertainty, and that at some stage in the summer a seemingly insignificant economic action or indicator will trigger a retrenchment of the Dow.

The uncertainty of the past week has, I believe, already undermined the market confidence and there will be further tremors to come. Inevitably when this occurs there will be a backwash which our market will have to ride, but we shouldn't be so badly effected as we have not risen so high.

So our summer is unlikely to see our ship lying placidly in a becalmed ocean. The political - both domestically in Europe and further afield - will keep us all awake. I can't see the FTSE 100 Index moving firmly with its own will in any direction, and it is far more likely to be tossed around by the vicissitudes of other external events.

In the short term we have the Railtrack privatisation to deal with and every chance of another one later in the summer in the form of British Energy.

The market is also full of rumours of corporate sharks behaving in a predatory manner looking for takeovers. When the monopolies and mergers commission report on the

proposed takeovers by PowerGen and National Power of any remaining Regional Electricity companies appears, this is likely to have a knock-on effect and spark a new round of speculation.

Speculation over BT's negotiations (with Cable & Wireless) and the future of British Gas should help their shareholders see more value in their languishing share prices. Others like water stocks may also come back into the frame.

But why is all this speculation occurring now? The answer seems to lie in a feeling that if you don't do it now, it will be more difficult later. I am not completely convinced. I think it more likely that companies which have been building up reserves are looking for significant growth opportunities and acquisitions are an effective, if not necessarily easy way of going about it.

Interest rates are low and are likely to remain so for the time being - although the next move could be up if the retail recovery shows any sign of quickening. So what should we do with our money in this naval enterprise? In my view, if you are already invested then obey sound investment rules - if you are showing a good profit, then bank it; if you are showing a loss then cut it, unless you believe there is a special factor.

In the meantime, our market will probably sway to and fro until the question of captaincy and officers has been decided. So if you are in an investment skiff be prepared for the summer back wash from the US and do watch out for the sharks.

Justin Urquhart Stewart is business planning director, Barclays stockbrokers limited.

The portfolio to beat all Peps

First prize for product innovation this year so far must go to Scottish Amicable's Personal Equity Portfolio, which will be on offer from May 1 to June 10. It combines the tax-free attractions of a personal equity plan bigger than all the existing Peps available to date with the ability of a split-level investment trust to channel all the income to the tax-free part of the trust and any capital gains to another.

In effect an investor can put up £50,000 into the plan, of which £6,000 will go into ordinary shares in a new split-level investment trust, Amicable Strategy Trust, which will be placed in a PEP, and £44,000 into warrants which will be converted into capital shares held outside the PEP.

The management will deduct an initial charge of 4.9 per cent, of which 3 per cent will go in commissions to the independent financial advisers through which the plan will be marketed.

The balance will be invested in equities chosen from the FTSE top 350 shares, which currently yield an average of about 3.8 per cent net, a fraction less than the top 100 shares.

The whole of the income will be credited to the ordinary shares, however, and can be paid out half-yearly or rolled up tax-free within the PEP element of the fund to generate a return in excess of 6 per cent to higher-rate taxpayers. There will be an annual management charge of 1 per cent.

The capital shares will earn no income and will fall in value if the 350-share index falls during the planned seven-year life of the trust.

Unlike Scot Am's guaranteed PEP there will be no guarantee. But as Scot Am's general manager of product development, Gavin Stewart, who created the fund, points out, there has not been a time since 1973 when the London stock market has fallen over a seven-year period.

In the meantime the fund will be managed to try and outperform the 350-share index. At the end of seven years the trust will be wound up unless 75 per cent of the shares are voted to continue. The capital shares will have first entitlement to the capital, and will receive £50,000 or £44,000 plus the rate of inflation, whichever is the higher.

If the rate of inflation averages 1.85 per cent or

less the £50,000 will be payable and there will be some capital gains tax liability.

But in the likely event that inflation is higher the second option will be triggered and the gain will, under current regulations, be tax-free.

Once the capital shares have been paid, any remaining capital will be paid out to the ordinary shares and as they are inside the PEP that gain, like the income, will be tax-free.

Scot Am, sponsor of the Barbarians rugby club, has set a ceiling of £1bn on the size of the trust but will be satisfied if it attracts at least a quarter of that. The maximum investment is £50,000 per person and £100,000 for a married couple, but the minimum investment has been scaled down at the request of IFAs to £10,000, of which £1,200 represents ordinary shares and £8,800 the capital shares.

To qualify for the trust

investors must not yet have used any part of their 1996/7 PEP allowance.

The trust is being marketed through IFAs and applications must be lodged with the Royal Bank of Scotland by June 10.

The new product has taken Scot Am six months to devise. The proposal has been run past the Inland Revenue, which has raised no objection to the concept, although like the guaranteed corporate bond PEP invested in its own shares marketed last year by Legal & General the Scot Am product does appear to strain the Treasury's definition of what is an eligible PEPable investment.

Independent financial

advisers are divided over

whether there will be a

ready market for the

product. The income yield will still be significantly lower than what is available on most corporate bond Peps and high-income Peps which medium-sized investors can buy each year, while large investors who will be constrained by the annual limit of £9,000 on new Peps of all kinds already have a wide range of alternative investments open to them at home and abroad.

If, however, the Scot Am product succeeds in tapping a rich vein of investor interest competitors seem likely to follow suit and to try and run the gauntlet of approval from the Inland Revenue to get similar products on the market before the end of the financial year which has just begun.



Front-line: Scottish Amicable stands out from the pack

YOUR
PENSION:
IN YOUR
OWN TIME,
IN YOUR
OWN WAY.

A Merchant Investors pension, is an easy, convenient and flexible pension.

The charges are low.

Invest what you want, when you want.

Pay no commission when you buy direct.

No sales person will bother you.



Merchant Investors

Assurance

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and part of Allianz, Europe's largest insurance group.

Mail this coupon to: Merchant Investors Assurance Company Limited, Freepost BS 6013, Bristol BS1 2UZ
MB / MRS / MISS / MS (please circle as appropriate)

INITIALS SURNAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

CALL NOW ON
0800 374857
FOR A BROCHURE

IND 13/4/96

"Legal best-v
No 1
(most can

CAL

JEPY is 150

money

Best borrowing rates

	Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
FIXED RATES						
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.25 for 1 year	70	0.75%	—	1st 5 yrs: 7.24% sum repaid
Coverity BS	0800 126125	3.95 to 1/5/98	85	£250	—	To 1/5/01: 6 mths interest
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	7.24 to 1/5/01	95	£250	—	1st 6 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Variable rates						
Hinckley & Rugby	0800 774499	0.11 for 9 mths	70	—	Free val, 3 yrs unemployment inc	1st 5 yrs: dis reclaimed/ 3 mths interest
Principality BS	01222 344188	1.00 to 1/6/97	90	—	—	To 31/5/01: dis reclaimed
Halifax BS	0800 101110	4.45 to 30/6/99	90	—	Free valuation	To 30/6/03: 2.6% of advance
First time buyers fixed rates						
Bristol & West BS	0800 100117	0.95 to 30/4/97	90	£275	—	To 30/4/01: 8/6 mths interest
Mortgage Trust	0800 550551	5.95 to 31/5/99	95	£295	£350 cash rebate	1st 5 yrs: 6 mths interest
Furness BS	01229 824560	7.45 to 2/4/01	95	£250	Refund valuation fees	1st 5 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
First time buyers variable rates						
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	0.95 for 1 year	95	£150	—	1st 5 yrs: 6.29% of advance
Principality BS	01222 344188	3.60 to 1/6/98	90	—	—	To 31/5/01: discount reduced
Halifax BS	0800 101110	5.69 to 30/6/01	95	£500 & free val	—	To 30/6/03: 1/2/3/4/2% of adv
PERSONAL LOANS						
	Telephone	APR			Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)	
Unsecured						
Yorkshire BS	0113 231 5324	14.60		£117.68	With insurance £102.09	
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	14.90E		£114.41	Without insurance £102.59	
Midland Bank	0800 180180	14.90		£115.82	—	
Second (second charge)				Max LTV Advance	Term	
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.40	Neg	£31 - £15K	6 mths to 25 years	
Royal B of Scotland via branch	9.00		70%	£2.5K-£100K	3 years - retirement	
Barclays Bank	0800 000929	9.0/10.0	80%	£10K-75K	5 to 25 years	
OVERDRAFTS						
	Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Unauthorised % pm	APR	
Woolwich BS	0800 400090	Current	0.76	9.5	2.18	29.5
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	9.5	2.20	29.8
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.79	9.9	2.18	29.5
CREDIT CARDS						
	Telephone	Card income	Min % pm	Rate %	APR	Annual int. free period
Standard	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.92	11.50	—
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.00	£12 56 days
RBS Advanta	0800 077770	Visa	—	1.22	15.60	—
Gold cards						56 days
Co-operative Bank	0345 2122212	Visa	£20,000	0.50	10.50	£120 46 days
Royal B of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05N	14.50N	£35 46 days
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Visa	£20,000	1.14	15.90	£35 56 days
STANDBY LOANS						
	Telephone		Payment by direct debit % pm	Payment by other methods % pm	APR	
John Lewis	in store	—	—	1.39	18.00	
Marks & Spencer	01244 681681	1.87	24.80	1.97	26.30	
Sears	in store	1.94	25.90	2.20	29.80	
<small>APR Annualised percentage rate. LTV Loan to value. ASU Accident, sickness and unemployment. E Available to customers under 22s. N Special rate until 31/12/95 for cards issued after 1/3/95.</small>						
<small>All rates subject to change without notice. MONEYFACTS 01692 500677 11 April 1996</small>						

Best savings rates

	Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
INSTANT ACCESS						
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Year
Shipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£2,500	5.10	Year
Shipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£15,000	5.25	Year
Shipton BS	01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	6.00	Year
INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS						
Yorkshire BS	0800 378836	First Class Access	Postal	£1,000	5.00	Year
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Great North Postal	Postal	£5,000	6.25A	Year
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	5.60	Year
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Great North Postal	Postal	£50,000	6.75A	Year
HOME MORTGAGE ACCOUNTS						
Norwich & Peterboro'	01793 391497	Postal 10	10 day P	£10,000	6.10	Year
Coventry BS	0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day P	£20,000	5.45	Year
Scarborough BS	0800 590578	Scarborough 75	75 day	£1,000	6.30	Year
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	120 Account	120 day	£25,000	6.75	Year
MORTGAGE INTEREST						
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pattibinder	Instant	£5,000	5.00	Month
Leopold Joseph & Sons	0171 588 2323	40 Day Notice	40 day	£10,000	6.12	Month
Coventry BS	0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day P	£25,000	6.15	Month
Scarborough BS	0800 590578	Scarborough 75	75 day	£1,000	6.10	Month
FIXED RATE BONDS						
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 2438292	Albion 97	30/4/97	£25,000	6.30F	Maturity
Chelsea BS	0800 272505	Fixed Rate Bond	1/6/98	£10,000	6.75F	Year
Stroud & Swindon BS	0345 252423	Fixed Rate Bond	2/4/99	£2,000	7.05F	Year
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 2438292	Albion 99	1/3/99	£5,000	7.25F	Year
CREDIT ACCOUNTS						
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£2,500	4.00	Year
Kilmarnock Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.25	Month
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£10,000	4.75	Year
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Instant	£25,000	5.00	Year
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Premium Life	0800 414111		1 year	£10,000	4.90FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		2 year	£5,000	5.70FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		3 year	£5,000	5.90FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388		4 year	£5,000	6.20FN	Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007		5 year	£3,000	6.75FN	Year
OFFSHORE (gross)						
Northern Rock, Guernsey	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£10,000	6.45	Year
Northern Rock, Guernsey	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£25,000	6.70	Year
Northern Rock, Guernsey	01481 714600	Offshore Instant	Instant	£50,000	6.90	Year
B'ham Midshires, Guernsey	01481 700680	Fixed Account	31.1.99	£5,000	7.25F	Year
NATIONAL SAVINGS Accounts & Bonds (gross) (gross)						
Investment Account			1 month	£20	5.00	Year
			6 months	£500	5.50	Year
			1 year	£25,000	5.75	Year
Income Bond			3 months	£2,000	6.25	Month
Capital Bond		Series J	5 year	£100	6.65 F	Maturity
First Option Bond		Series J	12 month	£1,000	6.25 F	Year
Pensioner's Growth Income Bond		Series 3	5 year	£20,000</		

money offshore investments



The Caymans: Among the offshore centres favoured by investors

Take the adventurous route to a tax haven

Tax savings, higher income, and little risk. An attractive cocktail, says Mike Goodman

Most savers seeking a "tax haven" need look no further than Peps or Tessas. But there are two groups of investor who will enjoy tax advantages from being more adventurous and investing offshore.

The first group are wealthy high-rate taxpayers who have used up all their Pep and Tessa allowances for the tax year, and have also exhausted their personal pension investment allowances. They may choose to "wrap up" their fund investment into single-premium offshore insurance bonds, and offshore trusts, to defer or minimise their future income and inheritance tax liabilities.

For them the name of the game is turning high-taxed income into capital gains. So their first choice among offshore funds should be those which "roll up" income into capital.

The second group are non-tax-payers who want to save the bother of reclaiming tax credits on their UK unit trust investments.

For them maximising income without undue risk to capital is the chief objective. So they are best suited to high-yielding funds which invest in cash deposits or bonds and enjoy "distributor" status.

Higher-rate taxpayers can also benefit from offshore investment through single-premium insurance bonds, as the Revenue allows up to 5 per cent of the original investment to be drawn out annually as tax-free income.

Tax is payable eventually, but can be deferred until the holder moves to a lower tax bracket, for example on retirement.

Another tax concession, the so-called "dead settlor" loophole, can defer or mitigate inheritance tax liability - for the moment. And the use of offshore trusts can also play its part in tax planning. An offshore trust can be based in a different jurisdiction to the assets. The Channel Islands, Bermuda and the Isle of Man are favourite "trust havens" as

their legal system is similar to that of the UK.

Sadly the so-called "5 per cent" concession and the "dead settlor" loophole are unlikely to survive the next Finance Bill, and will certainly disappear under a Labour government. That said, avoiding tax is not the be-all and end-all of investing offshore, as Julia Whittle, consultant at Chase de Vere Investment, explains.

"Don't just look at tax when deciding to buy offshore funds. Look at performance. Some offshore funds have not performed as well as the UK but it may be worth investing in offshore funds that do not have UK equivalents - multi-currency or emerging market funds, for example."

"Choose funds on their merits, not just because they are offshore. Often poor performance and higher charges cancel out the advantages of an offshore fund's tax-free status," she adds.

Investors already bewildered by the proliferation of UK unit trusts may be even more bewildered at the choice offshore. There are literally thousands sold out to a score of jurisdictions.

For safety's sake, however, it is wise to confine choice to funds managed by established UK names and based in six offshore centres - Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Bermuda, Luxembourg and Dublin.

The first four enjoy so-called "designated territory" status with the UK authorities, who recognise that the local regulation is on a par with the UK's.

The last two fall within the European Union collective investment directives, which allow funds to be sold throughout the EU.

Statistics on offshore funds show they are big business in these territories. The "market leader" is Luxembourg which offers 2,000 different funds with assets totalling £70bn. And from a standing start nine years ago, Dublin's International Financial Centre now hosts 500 funds with assets of £30bn.

More than 300 operate in Jersey, with assets of £23bn, while Guernsey boasts about 200 funds with assets totalling £8bn. Bermuda, a tax-free haven for top US mutual fund groups, boasts more than 500 funds with more than £9bn of assets.

Only 100 funds are offered out of the Isle of Man and their assets are a modest £4bn. But funds offered by the island's life insurance companies through investment bonds more than double this total.

Investors in funds based in Luxembourg and Dublin benefit from their "open-ended company" structure, based on EU law. Unlike UK-style unit trusts, they are stock market-quoted companies.

These combine the best attributes of investment trusts with those of unit trusts. The first is single-pricing, the second is they can be set up as umbrella funds. With conventional unit trusts there is a bid/offer spread. With single pricing, there is one price and any sales or purchase costs are added on. This allows some brokers and fund managers to charge a flat fee which cuts the overall cost of large deals. With an "umbrella fund" structure, it is cheaper and easier to switch among funds in the same management stable.

For example, Mercury Asset Management's \$1.1bn Luxembourg-based Selected Trust offers 31 sub-funds. These range from low-risk bond funds to high-risk emerging market funds.

Some of these "company-style" trusts have already appeared in the Channel Islands, and they are set to appear in the UK later this year when the necessary legislation is in place.

New-style investment trusts may also be on their way from Dublin, where the authorities plan to allow so-called closed-ended investment companies. These will be similar to UK investment trusts, but may be allowed to redeem shares at net asset value for a limited period each year.

Choose your own currency

By Stephen Spurdon

Having an investment portfolio with an adequate spread of risk usually involves a portion being invested in cash. This could be in a high-interest account in a UK bank or building society. Or you could go offshore and invest in a bank account or a money fund. Interest on a bank account is paid gross and no tax is payable on a money market fund until it is encashed.

In both instances the investor can make further gains (or losses) by investing in funds or accounts that are

not sterling-denominated. Offshore money funds can be invested in one of a range of currencies or offered as a single managed fund where the investment decisions on what currencies to invest in are taken by the fund manager who normally invests in a variety of currencies. The funds provide a high rate of interest for investors by placing deposits on the wholesale money markets as well as the opportunity to switch quickly and cheaply between currencies through an umbrella fund structure.

Bear in mind that interest earned is subject to UK income tax when paid out to UK residents. If the fund has "distributor" status, sale of the fund proceeds will also give rise to a capital gains tax liability after allowance for indexation. If the fund is a "roll-up" fund, the interest earned is accumulated. It grows at compound rates and is added gross. Taxation may then be deferred until the investment is redeemed, whereupon the whole gain becomes subject to income tax.

The top-performing current fund last year was the Global Manager Japan Yen Bear fund, from the Bermuda-based Bermuda International Investment Ltd, which provided a gross return, rebased against sterling, of 39.96 per cent (offer to offer).

This compares with the top-performing sterling fund, DBIM Sterling Reserve, which produced a return of 7.33 per cent over the same period.

These funds have all obtained an AAA rating from Standard & Poors. There is no initial charge for joining the single-currency funds, but the managed fund costs 3.5 per cent up front. All of these funds have an annual management charge of 0.85 per cent.

Jonathan Overland, the sales and marketing director at Newton International Investment Management Ltd, says: "There is no switching charge, and one price for buying or selling on any day."

"There is no mark-up on the exchange rates, we simply negotiate with the banks to obtain the best price for investors."

Hit your building society where it hurts. In their interest rate.

Because our PEP beats every building society account into a pulp. If you want to make a building society manager weep, send off for our information pack. You'll be glad you did.

There is a facilities adviser issued by Save & Prosper Group Limited which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and MIA and may only advise on products offered by the Planning and Save & Prosper Marketing Group.

PLEASANT LIFE

Pleasant Life House
Quint Street, London

July 1st 1996

You can invest in The M&G PEP from as little as £50 a month, or as much as £6,000 lump sum.

Telephone (01245) 390000 or write to:
The M&G Group, Bristol BS38 7ET.

The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You may not get back the amount you invested. The tax regime of PEPs could change in the future. The value to you of tax benefits will depend on your circumstances. M&G does not offer investment advice or make any recommendations regarding investments. We only market the packaged products of the M&G Marketing Group. Issued by M&G Financial Services Limited (Regulated by The Personal Investment Authority). Registered Office: M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1FB. Reg. No. 923881.

M&G

Managing your money for the longer term

We've taken the best bits from other investments and put them into our High Income Fund PEP.

No entry or exit charge!

7.75%
PA
TAX-FREE

Now Annual
Payments

BEATS ANY
BUILDING SOCIETY

Now you don't have to tear through the financial pages, trying to find the best deals.

We've selected them for you and put them in our High Income Fund PEP.

To start with you're offered a tax-free income of 7.75% pa.* And you pay no entry or exit charges. We also think you shouldn't be ripped off on management fees.

Ours is a very low 0.75%. The yield on our

High Income Fund PEP currently outperforms every building society account not least because the income you receive from it is tax-free.

If you'd like your money to work harder, invest a couple of minutes in a phone call.

Our salaried advisers are trained to give you helpful advice and information and can send you a free fact pack.

It'll cut out the need to look any further.

CALL NOW 0800 829 100

8am to 9pm seven days a week

**SAVE &
PROSPER**

Save & Prosper Group Limited, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR. Please send me details of Save & Prosper's High Income Fund PEP.

Name/Ms/Mr
Address
Postcode
Home Tel No.
Work Tel No.
So that we may call and offer further information.

1700, no 1

going out



critics' choice

CINEMA

CYCLE (above) The Cycle (Le Van Loc) works a cycle back to Ho Chi Minh City, but when his life is stolen he must turn to crime to survive. A haunting, harrowing journey that suggests both Schindler and your strangest nightmares.

CITY HALL A brilliant and intricate conspiracy thriller in which the accidental shooting of a young boy spans a chain of events that threatens to bring down New York's Mayor. Starring Al Pacino and John Cusack.

CAT SHOT John Travolta's performance in Pulp Fiction was just a warm-up for his shimmering turn here as loanshark Chili Palmer.

Ryan Gilbey

THEATRE

The Thicknes (left) In this intimate, no-nonsense drama, a man returns from a year in prison to find his wife has moved on.

CRIME Michael Nyqvist is superb as a man who observes and empathises with his victim's predicament.

Flesh and Blood After the enveloping, lyrical drama of *What I Do in the Dark*, this is a more down-to-earth study of the human condition.

Handbag Stephen Sondheim's

In Angels in America makes a welcome return to Katie Mitchell's production, a sharp study of need.

Stephen Bayley

FILM

West End Mel Gibson directs and stars in *Die Hard With a Vengeance* (15) Sat, 7.30pm, 7.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.45pm.

CASINO (16) Robert De Niro stars. Top-coder MGM Sat, 4.30pm, 7.40pm, 11.30pm, 1.30am, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm, 11.30pm (18).

CITY HALL (15) John Travolta lectures two nuclear warheads. *Wise Men* Arch 1, 11.30am, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm, 11.45pm.

CYCLE (16) Vietnamese tale about acycle-driven gang. *Wise Men* Cinema 12, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

DEAD MAN WALKING (15) A nun befriends a man on death row. *Sheepdog* (15) MGM 2.10, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

CITY (15) A new film from the director of *Death of a Salesman*. *Tragedy* (MGM 12.30, 3.10, 6.10, 9.10, 12.15, 12.30pm) (Sat).

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place WC2 (0171-231811)

Bitter End (16) 4.00pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.45pm.

GRAND CAFE (15) Asian Travellers stars. *Sheepdog* (15) Sat, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

LA GRAN LUNA VENAS (15) Street view of the glamourous *Las Vegas*. *Wise Men* Cinema 3.45, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

MIGHTY APHRODITE (15)伟烈·艾伦的最后一个作品。Barbican Cinema 1, 11.30am, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

NOTRE DAME DE PARIS (15) John Travolta stars. *Wise Men* Cinema 12, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

RENT (15) Andrew Lloyd Webber. *Wise Men* Cinema 12, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.

THEATRE

West End *Moment* (11/13 Sat, 13/14 Sun, 17/18 Fri, 19/20 Sat, 20/21 Sun, 24/25 Mon, 27/28 Tue, 29/30 Wed, 30/31 Thu, 31/32 Fri, 1/3 Sat, 2/4 Sun, 5/6 Mon, 7/8 Tue, 8/9 Wed, 9/10 Thu, 10/11 Fri, 11/12 Sat, 12/13 Sun, 15/16 Mon, 16/17 Tue, 17/18 Wed, 18/19 Thu, 19/20 Fri, 20/21 Sat, 21/22 Sun, 24/25 Mon, 25/26 Tue, 26/27 Wed, 27/28 Thu, 28/29 Fri, 29/30 Sat, 30/31 Sun, 1/1 Mon, 2/2 Tue, 3/3 Wed, 4/4 Thu, 5/5 Fri, 6/6 Sat, 7/7 Sun, 8/8 Mon, 9/9 Tue, 10/10 Wed, 11/11 Thu, 12/12 Fri, 13/13 Sat, 14/14 Sun, 15/15 Mon, 16/16 Tue, 17/17 Wed, 18/18 Thu, 19/19 Fri, 20/20 Sat, 21/21 Sun, 22/22 Mon, 23/23 Tue, 24/24 Wed, 25/25 Thu, 26/26 Fri, 27/27 Sat, 28/28 Sun, 29/29 Mon, 30/30 Tue, 31/31 Wed, 32/32 Thu, 33/33 Fri, 34/34 Sat, 35/35 Sun, 36/36 Mon, 37/37 Tue, 38/38 Wed, 39/39 Thu, 40/40 Fri, 41/41 Sat, 42/42 Sun, 43/43 Mon, 44/44 Tue, 45/45 Wed, 46/46 Thu, 47/47 Fri, 48/48 Sat, 49/49 Sun, 50/50 Mon, 51/51 Tue, 52/52 Wed, 53/53 Thu, 54/54 Fri, 55/55 Sat, 56/56 Sun, 57/57 Mon, 58/58 Tue, 59/59 Wed, 60/60 Thu, 61/61 Fri, 62/62 Sat, 63/63 Sun, 64/64 Mon, 65/65 Tue, 66/66 Wed, 67/67 Thu, 68/68 Fri, 69/69 Sat, 70/70 Sun, 71/71 Mon, 72/72 Tue, 73/73 Wed, 74/74 Thu, 75/75 Fri, 76/76 Sat, 77/77 Sun, 78/78 Mon, 79/79 Tue, 80/80 Wed, 81/81 Thu, 82/82 Fri, 83/83 Sat, 84/84 Sun, 85/85 Mon, 86/86 Tue, 87/87 Wed, 88/88 Thu, 89/89 Fri, 90/90 Sat, 91/91 Sun, 92/92 Mon, 93/93 Tue, 94/94 Wed, 95/95 Thu, 96/96 Fri, 97/97 Sat, 98/98 Sun, 99/99 Mon, 100/100 Tue, 101/101 Wed, 102/102 Thu, 103/103 Fri, 104/104 Sat, 105/105 Sun, 106/106 Mon, 107/107 Tue, 108/108 Wed, 109/109 Thu, 110/110 Fri, 111/111 Sat, 112/112 Sun, 113/113 Mon, 114/114 Tue, 115/115 Wed, 116/116 Thu, 117/117 Fri, 118/118 Sat, 119/119 Sun, 120/120 Mon, 121/121 Tue, 122/122 Wed, 123/123 Thu, 124/124 Fri, 125/125 Sat, 126/126 Sun, 127/127 Mon, 128/128 Tue, 129/129 Wed, 130/130 Thu, 131/131 Fri, 132/132 Sat, 133/133 Sun, 134/134 Mon, 135/135 Tue, 136/136 Wed, 137/137 Thu, 138/138 Fri, 139/139 Sat, 140/140 Sun, 141/141 Mon, 142/142 Tue, 143/143 Wed, 144/144 Thu, 145/145 Fri, 146/146 Sat, 147/147 Sun, 148/148 Mon, 149/149 Tue, 150/150 Wed, 151/151 Thu, 152/152 Fri, 153/153 Sat, 154/154 Sun, 155/155 Mon, 156/156 Tue, 157/157 Wed, 158/158 Thu, 159/159 Fri, 160/160 Sat, 161/161 Sun, 162/162 Mon, 163/163 Tue, 164/164 Wed, 165/165 Thu, 166/166 Fri, 167/167 Sat, 168/168 Sun, 169/169 Mon, 170/170 Tue, 171/171 Wed, 172/172 Thu, 173/173 Fri, 174/174 Sat, 175/175 Sun, 176/176 Mon, 177/177 Tue, 178/178 Wed, 179/179 Thu, 180/180 Fri, 181/181 Sat, 182/182 Sun, 183/183 Mon, 184/184 Tue, 185/185 Wed, 186/186 Thu, 187/187 Fri, 188/188 Sat, 189/189 Sun, 190/190 Mon, 191/191 Tue, 192/192 Wed, 193/193 Thu, 194/194 Fri, 195/195 Sat, 196/196 Sun, 197/197 Mon, 198/198 Tue, 199/199 Wed, 200/200 Thu, 201/201 Fri, 202/202 Sat, 203/203 Sun, 204/204 Mon, 205/205 Tue, 206/206 Wed, 207/207 Thu, 208/208 Fri, 209/209 Sat, 210/210 Sun, 211/211 Mon, 212/212 Tue, 213/213 Wed, 214/214 Thu, 215/215 Fri, 216/216 Sat, 217/217 Sun, 218/218 Mon, 219/219 Tue, 220/220 Wed, 221/221 Thu, 222/222 Fri, 223/223 Sat, 224/224 Sun, 225/225 Mon, 226/226 Tue, 227/227 Wed, 228/228 Thu, 229/229 Fri, 230/230 Sat, 231/231 Sun, 232/232 Mon, 233/233 Tue, 234/234 Wed, 235/235 Thu, 236/236 Fri, 237/237 Sat, 238/238 Sun, 239/239 Mon, 240/240 Tue, 241/241 Wed, 242/242 Thu, 243/243 Fri, 244/244 Sat, 245/245 Sun, 246/246 Mon, 247/247 Tue, 248/248 Wed, 249/249 Thu, 250/250 Fri, 251/251 Sat, 252/252 Sun, 253/253 Mon, 254/254 Tue, 255/255 Wed, 256/256 Thu, 257/257 Fri, 258/258 Sat, 259/259 Sun, 260/260 Mon, 261/261 Tue, 262/262 Wed, 263/263 Thu, 264/264 Fri, 265/265 Sat, 266/266 Sun, 267/267 Mon, 268/268 Tue, 269/269 Wed, 270/270 Thu, 271/271 Fri, 272/272 Sat, 273/273 Sun, 274/274 Mon, 275/275 Tue, 276/276 Wed, 277/277 Thu, 278/278 Fri, 279/279 Sat, 280/280 Sun, 281/281 Mon, 282/282 Tue, 283/283 Wed, 284/284 Thu, 285/285 Fri, 286/286 Sat, 287/287 Sun, 288/288 Mon, 289/289 Tue, 290/290 Wed, 291/291 Thu, 292/292 Fri, 293/293 Sat, 294/294 Sun, 295/295 Mon, 296/296 Tue, 297/297 Wed, 298/298 Thu, 299/299 Fri, 300/300 Sat, 301/301 Sun, 302/302 Mon, 303/303 Tue, 304/304 Wed, 305/305 Thu, 306/306 Fri, 307/307 Sat, 308/308 Sun, 309/309 Mon, 310/310 Tue, 311/311 Wed, 312/312 Thu, 313/313 Fri, 314/314 Sat, 315/315 Sun, 316/316 Mon, 317/317 Tue, 318/318 Wed, 319/319 Thu, 320/320 Fri, 321/321 Sat, 322/322 Sun, 323/323 Mon, 324/324 Tue, 325/325 Wed, 326/326 Thu, 327/327 Fri, 328/328 Sat, 329/329 Sun, 330/330 Mon, 331/331 Tue, 332/332 Wed, 333/333 Thu, 334/334 Fri, 335/335 Sat, 336/336 Sun, 337/337 Mon, 338/338 Tue, 339/339 Wed, 340/340 Thu, 341/341 Fri, 342/342 Sat, 343/343 Sun, 344/344 Mon, 345/345 Tue, 346/346 Wed, 347/347 Thu, 348/348 Fri, 349/349 Sat, 350/350 Sun, 351/351 Mon, 352/352 Tue, 353/353 Wed, 354/354 Thu, 355/355 Fri, 356/356 Sat, 357/357 Sun, 358/358 Mon, 359/359 Tue, 360/360 Wed, 361/361 Thu, 362/362 Fri, 363/363 Sat, 364/364 Sun, 365/365 Mon, 366/366 Tue, 367/367 Wed, 368/368 Thu, 369/369 Fri, 370/370 Sat, 371/371 Sun, 372/372 Mon, 373/373 Tue, 374/374 Wed, 375/375 Thu, 376/376 Fri, 377/377 Sat, 378/378 Sun, 379/379 Mon, 380/380 Tue, 381/381 Wed, 382/382 Thu, 383/383 Fri, 384/384 Sat, 385/385 Sun, 386/386 Mon, 387/387 Tue, 388/388 Wed, 389/389 Thu, 390/390 Fri, 391/391 Sat, 392/392 Sun, 393/393 Mon, 394/394 Tue, 395/395 Wed, 396/396 Thu, 397/397 Fri, 398/398 Sat, 399/399 Sun, 300/300 Mon, 301/301 Tue, 302/302 Wed, 303/303 Thu, 304/304 Fri, 305/305 Sat, 306/306 Sun, 307/307 Mon, 308/308 Tue, 309/309 Wed, 310/310 Thu, 311/311 Fri, 312/312 Sat, 313/313 Sun, 314/314 Mon, 315/315 Tue, 316/316 Wed, 317/317 Thu, 318/318 Fri, 319/319 Sat, 320/320 Sun, 321/321 Mon, 322/322 Tue, 323/323 Wed, 324/324 Thu, 325/325 Fri, 326/326 Sat, 327/327 Sun, 328/328 Mon, 329/329 Tue, 330/330 Wed, 331/331 Thu, 332/332 Fri, 333/333 Sat, 334/334 Sun, 335/335 Mon, 336/336 Tue, 337/337 Wed, 338/338 Thu, 339/339 Fri, 340/340 Sat, 341/341 Sun, 342/342 Mon, 343/343 Tue, 344/344 Wed, 345/345 Thu, 346/346 Fri, 347/347 Sat, 348/348 Sun, 349/349 Mon, 350/350 Tue, 351/351 Wed, 352/352 Thu, 353/353 Fri, 354/354 Sat, 355/355 Sun, 356/356 Mon, 357/357 Tue, 358/358 Wed, 359/359 Thu, 360/360 Fri, 361/361 Sat, 362/362 Sun, 363/363 Mon, 364/364 Tue, 365/365 Wed, 366/366 Thu, 367/367 Fri, 368/368 Sat, 369/369 Sun, 370/370 Mon, 371/371 Tue, 372/372 Wed, 373/373 Thu, 374/374 Fri, 375/375 Sat, 376/376 Sun, 377/377 Mon, 378/378 Tue, 379/379 Wed, 380/380 Thu, 381/381 Fri, 382/382 Sat, 383/383 Sun, 384/384 Mon, 385/385 Tue, 386/386 Wed, 387/387 Thu, 388/388 Fri, 389/389 Sat, 390/390 Sun, 391/391 Mon, 392/392 Tue, 393/393 Wed, 394/394 Thu, 395/395 Fri, 396/396 Sat, 397/397 Sun, 398/398 Mon, 399/399 Tue, 300/300 Wed, 301/301 Thu, 302/302 Fri, 303/303 Sat, 304/304 Sun, 305/305 Mon, 306/306 Tue, 307/307 Wed, 308/308 Thu, 309/309 Fri, 310/310 Sat, 311/311 Sun, 312/312 Mon, 313/313 Tue, 314/314 Wed, 315/315 Thu, 316/316 Fri, 317/317 Sat, 318/318 Sun, 319/319 Mon, 00/00 Tue, 01/01 Wed, 02/02 Thu, 03/03 Fri, 04/04 Sat, 05/05 Sun, 06/06 Mon, 07/07 Tue, 08/08 Wed, 09/09 Thu, 10/10 Fri, 11/11 Sat, 12/12 Sun, 13/13 Mon, 14/14 Tue, 15/15 Wed, 16/16 Thu, 17/17 Fri, 18/18 Sat, 19/19 Sun, 20/20 Mon, 21/21 Tue, 22/22 Wed, 23/23 Thu, 24/24 Fri, 25/25 Sat, 26/26 Sun, 27/27 Mon, 28/28 Tue, 29/29 Wed, 30/30 Thu, 31/3

THE WEEK AHEAD		staying in							
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
11.30 Radio by Robert Hanks									
Rescue 9pm C4. This new six-part series charting the history of the emergency services since 1945 begins by comparing two underground fires – one beneath Smithfield Market in 1958 and the King's Cross disaster of 1987. (1776). Film: Red Rock West (John Dahl 1992 US) 10pm C4. Penniless drifter Nicolas Cage is mistaken for a hit man and sent to kill Lila Flynn Boyle. Enter the real assassin... (312115). Ornithos. 10.10pm BBC1. (not Scob). Spike Milligan (above) in his own words (5452318).	The Works 8pm BBC2. New series of unusual tales from the worlds of art and design begins with an engineer discovering a fatal flaw in the skyscraper he designed (above) (5351). Without Walls: the Elgin Marbles 9pm C4. William G Stewart presents an unusual version of his daytime game show Fifteen to One, to show that the Elgin Marbles should be returned to Greece (9535). Film: Apartment Zero. 12.30am BBC2 (Martin Donovan 1988 US). Just two words: Colin Firth (50833).	Modern Times 9pm BBC2. Thirteen-year-old Ellen Morgan lives in Leedy, New Zealand: if she goes home to America, she'll be forced to live with her father who, she says, sexually abused her. This is a follow-up to a 1990 film documenting her flight (7227). Madison 9.30pm BBC1. Ian McShane drops Lovejoy for this new, darker role as a man who served eight years for a murder he didn't commit, gaining a law degree while inside. Now he wants to become a solicitor (above) (233659).	Hollywood Pals 8.30pm ITV. From the makers of Hollywood Men and Hollywood Women, a new series looking at the barking doleans of La-La-land and their pets. We begin with a 'big fashion consultant' (above) (6770). Minnows 8pm C4. Interviews of survivors from Waco, Texas, some of whom are waiting for David Koresh to return as messiah (7741). Film: The Glass Menagerie (Paul Newman 1957 US) 12.55am C4. With Joanne Woodward and John Malkovich (54920432).	Have I Got News for You? 10pm BBC2. Paul Merton steps down as regular team captain, not to be replaced by a tub of lard but by a rotating guest celebrity, starting with Eddie Izzard (above) (61677).					

Sunday television and radio

BBC1

7.30 Jim Henson's Animal Show (7536820). 7.55 Playdays (S) (4731820). 8.15 Italianissimo (R) (4472220). 8.30 Breakfast with Frost. James Goldsmith and Yehudi Menuhin have an early start (54462). 9.30 Climates of God (R) (5231707). 9.45 First Light. Includes an interview with the parents of Ecstasy death teenager Leah Betts (874004). 10.15 See Heart (S) (866085). 10.45 This Multimedia Business (R) (S) (4598714). 11.00 Hidden Empire (R) (S) (8714). * 11.30 My Brilliant Career. Derek Hatton (R) (S) (9443). 12.00 Country File (S) (96004). 12.30 On the Record (82630). * 1.30 EastEnders Ombuds (R) (S) (7414530). * 2.50 Calamity Jane (David Butler 1953 US). Big, bouncy musical western, with Doris Day at her most likeable as the tomcat romancing Howard Keel's Wild Bill Hickok (53448998). * 4.30 Bitbitch. Viewers' complaints (7371917). 5.10 MasterChef 1996. Chef Gérard Schwab and Ulrika Jonsson are the guest tasters (5699288). * 5.45 News; Weather (222998). * 6.05 Regional News (653882). 6.10 Songs of Praise from the Holy Trinity Church, Leicester (S) (569882). * 6.45 Antiques Roadshow. From Broxbourne in Hertfordshire (S) (569530). * 7.30 Hamish Macbeth Alex's book programme on Lachie Jr's radio station leads to a rash literary interest in Lochdubh (S) (56714). * 8.20 Birds of a Feather. The one where Tracey, Sharon and Doreen become sure that Chigwell's new resident is the Princess of Wales (R) (842917). * 8.50 News; Weather (882795). * 9.05 The Addams Family (Barry Sonnenfeld 1991 US). Enjoyable filmisation of the TV series goes back to the original New Yorker cartoons of Charles Addams for its look and ghoulish sense of humour. Some excellent casting too, with Anjelica Huston as Morticia, Raul Julia as Gomez, Christopher Lloyd as Uncle Fester and the striking Christina Ricci as Wednesday (S) (3653820). * 10.40 Heart of the Matter. David Puttnam, director of *The Killing Fields*, returns to Cambodia to explore the new killing fields created by thousands of unexploded landmines (148917). 11.20 In My Daughter's Name (Judi Taylor 1992 US). After a teenage girl's rapist and murderer is acquitted, the girl's mother takes matters into her own hands. Star: Denise Milne (S) (179917). * 12.50 Weather (2698825). To 12.55am REGIONS. NI: 2.50pm Now You're Talking. 3.20 Irish Cup Soccer Special. 4.10 The Pink Panther Show.

BBC2

6.15 Open University: Pure Maths (7673269). 6.40 Maths Methods (8675207). 7.05 Antony and Cleopatra Workshop (6416998). 7.30 Public Space, A Tale of Two Cities (7534462). 7.55 Public Space, Public Work (472714). 8.20 Shooting Video History (4588743). 9.10 Children's BBC: The Family Ness. 9.15 The All New Popeye Show. 9.40 Highlander. 10.05 The Littlest Pet Shop. 10.30 Grange Hill. 10.55 The Ant and Dec Show. 11.20 Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show. 11.45 Star Trek (R) (9314269). * 12.35 The Zone. P1 & Duncan tour Japan (3748424). 1.05 Singled Out (S) (86930926). 1.25 Police Squad (R) (65930385). 1.50 The History Man. The English Civil War Society help illuminate the events of 1648 (5130980). 2.00 Moonfeast (R) (Fritz Lang 1955 US). Stewart Granger, George Sanders and Joan Greenwood become involved with smugglers in mid-18th-century Dorset (5496066). 3.25 The Prisoner of Zenda (Richard Thorpe 1952 UK). Stewart Granger again, this time starring opposite James Mason in this, the third screen version of Anthony Hope's swashbuckler (31957240). 5.05 Rugby Special. Highlights from Bristol v Leicester (S) (6426207). 6.05 Haunt of the Fishing Owls. The African Owl (R) (S) (781627). * 6.35 Rebellion. This 250th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden drama-documentary tells the story of the Jacobites in the first half of the 18th century, when they sought to restore the Catholic Stuart kings to the British throne. What – and miss out on those whacky Hanoverians? (710191). 7.25 Cillidion Peter Watkins' film recreating the battle of Culloden. See Preview, p28 (2792004). 8.35 Fantasy Football League. Melvyn Bragg and Alan Davies are on the lads' sofa (S) (571117). 9.05 Golf - US Masters 1996. Steve Rider introduces coverage of the closing holes of the final round from Augusta (Due to five coverage following programme subject to change) (S) (56994379). 12.00 The Phenix City Story (Phil Karlson 1955 US). Reportedly gripping newsreel-style recreation of the battle against corruption in an Alabama town, with the documentary technique taken to absurd lengths. An actor playing one of the murder victims was apparently made to wear the dead man's clothes. (Then *Westworld*?) (70202). 2.00 The Learning Zone. FTV Short Cuts: Job Seeking and Interviews (28009). 4.00 Science: World Spanish (44221). 5.00 Business and Work (67738). 5.30 Winning (85047). To 6.00am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (67288). 8.00 Disney Club (S) (82986849). 10.15 Link (S) (505819). * 10.30 Morning Worship. From Fort Regent, Jersey (S) (99882). * 11.30 Blessed Are They. The composer John Taverner considered the biblical text Blessed Are the Pure in Heart (S) (6553085). * 11.55 Chalk Talk (S) (8347530). 12.30 Crosstalk (19443). 1.00 News, Weather (47260578). * 1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby (S) (3448280). 2.00 Yesterday's Heroes. Footballing legends George Best and Rodney Marsh (3527). 2.30 The Sunday Match. Live coverage of Charlton Athletic v Derby County (34214627). 5.20 The London Programme. Ex-Arsenal boss George Graham talks about his sacking over allegations of a £425,000 "bodge" (1155356). 5.50 Local News, Weather (708733). * 6.15 News, Weather (141712). * 6.30 Surprise! Surprise! (S) (39240). * 7.30 Doctor Finlay. Costume medical drama set in the late 1940s. Janet has a day-old baby abandoned on the doorstep of Arden House (S) (50917). * 8.30 You've Been Framed! (R) (S) (9608). * 9.00 News, Weather (903975). * 9.15 Lethal Weapon II (Richard Donner 1989 US). Patsy Kensit as Mel Gibson's love interest? Things can only get better – and they do. Just. The weakest of the trio of *Lethal Weapon* movies carries a plot about a South African drug syndicate somewhere in there among the smash-bang-wallop (362559). 11.15 The Sound Bank Show. Sting profiled. See Preview, above (S) (91849). * 12.15 Theatreland. Sheridan Morley presents the London theatre magazine, which includes the RSC's *Taming of the Shrew* and an interview with Josie Lawrence (92931). 12.45 Sledge Hammer (S) (91202). 1.15 Ngalo Marsh: Death in the Wool An Inspector Allyn mystery from 1978, with George Baker again impersonating Ngalo Marsh's police officer. It's 1942, and rather than doing his bit, Allyn is rather curiously tracking down a missing New Zealand sheep farmer's wife. That's his story, anyway (207805). 3.00 Nightwalk (Jernold Freedman 1989 US). Murder witness Lesley-Anne Down becomes the target of professional hit man Robert Urlich. Goodness – is that the time? (S) (900486). * 4.35 Shift (R) (8992318). 5.30 News (72573). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.15 Trans World Sport (R) (6322004). 7.10 Take 5 (S) (5694733). 7.40 The Magic School Bus (S) (7515337). 8.10 Sonic the Hedgehog (7886714). 8.35 The Trap Door (4243172). 8.40 Blast Off (S) (5626789). 8.50 Bike Miles from Mars (R) (870749). 9.15 Saved by the Bell (R) (858443). * 9.45 Dumb and Dumber (S) (8281022). 10.00 Insektors (5033882). 10.15 Sister Sister (S) (589795). 10.45 Wise Up (S) (258066). 11.15 NBA Round Focus on Salt Lake City, home to the Utah Jazz basketball team (848849). 12.15 Mission Impossible (102559). * 12.15 *All At Sea* (Charles Frend 1957 UK). The last of the Ealing comedies suffers in comparison with its illustrious predecessors. Alec Guinness plays the scion of a sea-faring family. He simply doesn't have sea legs, so after the running of a holiday pier instead (590085). * 12.45 *Very Important Person* (Ken Annakin 1961 UK). A delicious cast – James Robertson Justice, Leslie Phillips, Stanley Baxter, Eric Sykes, Richard Wattis – send up the prisoner-of-war camp movie genre (6103673). * 4.35 The Pink Panther Show (5320820). 5.05 Blue Wildermans. (Dolphins) (8087287). * 5.35 Hollyoaks (R) (S) (433917). * 6.05 Babylon 5 (473556). * 7.00 Triumph of the Nerds. See Preview (S) (3375). * 8.00 Encounters: Outback Fighters. The story of itinerant troupes of tentboxers roving the small mining towns of the Australian Outback at the turn of the century – and of Michael Karamana, who now carries on the tradition laid down by his grandfather (S) (9795). * 9.00 Deep Sleep. Secret History repeat detailing the shocking experiments conducted on depressed and mentally ill people in British-run hospitals in Australia between 1963 and 1978 (R) (9559). * 10.00 *The Cowboys* (Mark Rydell 1972 US). One of the most torpid cattle drives since the invention of motion pictures, "reckoned Pauline Kael of this late John Wayne movie in which the Duke hires 11 boys to help him drive his cows across country. Pretty to look at, but the message – violent revenge is good – comes straight out of a Michael Winner picture (3991288). * 12.25 Football Italia. Napoli v AC Milan (53429009). 1.25 *Latin America/The Middle East* (Satyajit Ray 1975 India). A young graduate comes face to face with corruption when he starts work in a small business in a satire set in modern Calcutta (84387776). To 3.30am.

ITV/Regions

NI/ULSTER As London except: 2.00am *A World of Wonder* (3527). 2.30 Kick Off Live (87306511). 5.35 Headcorn (435375). 12.15am Film: *Crazy Moon* (49512). 1.55am Hotel Babylon (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am Funny Business (67592). **THE TESTIMONY** As London except: 12.25pm *Time: Newsweek* (3734511). 1.00 *The Powers That Be* (3750193). 9.00 *Shameless* (3750194). 10.30 *Requiem for a Queen* (200172). 5.05 Robot Cop (7372153). 12.15am *Time: Highway to Heaven* (3315731). 1.00 *Match Your Match* (31573). 2.45am *Join Me* (5437329). 4.00am *Profile* (46532950). 4.15-5.30am *Joiner* (6381080). **CENTRAL** As London except: 12.30pm *Central Newsweek* (3755714). 2.00 *Good Advice* (3527). 2.30 The Central Match – Live (54214627). 5.30 *Stairmasters* (317844). 12.45am *Film: *Madame Curie** (3424009). 1.25am *Time: The Match* (317844). 2.45am *Joiner* (3367381). 5.20-5.30am *Asian Eye* (1182202). **HM/NORTH** As London except: 12.25pm *West: Dogs with Durbar* (37245111). 1.00 *Emmeline* (5045301). 2.50 *West: West Match* (7305878). *Wales: Soccer Sunday* (7505878). 3.50 *West: Gateways* (7678527). *Wales: House* (7678527). 4.20 *Film: Agatha Christie's A Caribbean Mystery* (3005784). 5.00 *West: Film: *Reindeer Games** (4299129). 5.30 *West: Film: *Crazy Moon** (49512). 1.55am *Hotel Babylon* (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am *Funny Business* (67592). **WESTERN** As London except: 12.30pm Seven Days (5477240). 2.00 *The Making of Broken Arrow* (3527). 2.30 *The Mandan Match* – Live (80166056). 5.10 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (3106291). 1.15am *Hotel Babylon* (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am *Funny Business* (67592). **SCOTLAND** As C4 except: 12.30pm *West Country Update* (3755714). 2.00 *Dogs with Durbar* (35221). 2.30 *West Country Match* (7227356). 3.10 *A Quick Run* (7367233). 3.20 *Film: Robin and Marian* (6236789). 5.10 *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman* (3738337). 12.15am *Film: *Crazy Moon** (49512). 1.55am *Hotel Babylon* (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am *Funny Business* (67592). **WALES** As C4 except: 12.30pm *West Country Update* (3755714). 2.00 *Dogs with Durbar* (35221). 2.30 *West Country Match* (7227356). 3.10 *A Quick Run* (7367233). 3.20 *Film: Robin and Marian* (6236789). 5.10 *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman* (3738337). 12.15am *Film: *Crazy Moon** (49512). 1.55am *Hotel Babylon* (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am *Funny Business* (67592). **NIERMAN** As London except: 12.30pm *Seven Days* (5477240). 2.00 *The Making of Broken Arrow* (3527). 2.30 *The Mandan Match* – Live (80166056). 5.10 *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (3106291). 1.15am *Hotel Babylon* (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am *Funny Business* (67592). **WESTERN** As C4 except: 12.30pm *West Country Update* (3755714). 2.00 *Dogs with Durbar* (35221). 2.30 *West Country Match* (7227356). 3.10 *A Quick Run* (7367233). 3.20 *Film: Robin and Marian* (6236789). 5.10 *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman* (3738337). 12.15am *Film: *Crazy Moon** (49512). 1.55am *Hotel Babylon* (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am *Funny Business* (67592). **SCOTLAND** As C4 except: 12.30pm *West Country Update* (3755714). 2.00 *Dogs with Durbar* (35221). 2.30 *West Country Match* (7227356). 3.10 *A Quick Run* (7367233). 3.20 *Film: Robin and Marian* (6236789). 5.10 *Dr Quinn, Medicine Woman* (3738337). 12.15am *Film: *Crazy Moon** (49512). 1.55am *Hotel Babylon* (3420209). 2.40am Shift (4034522). 3.40am Film: *Blonde's Big Moment* (2985399). 5.00-5.30am *Funny Business* (67592). **PASTIMES** **Chess** William Hartston White: Ruth Sheldon Black: Richard McMichael Old Indian Defence 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bc4 Qb6 3.Bb5 Rf6 4.Qd2 Nc6 5.Qe3 Nf6 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.Bd3 Ng5 8.Bf4 Qe7 9.e3 0-0 10.Bc5 11.Qd2 Ng5 12.Qe3 Nf6 13.Rd1 Nb8 14.Qc3 Qh4 15.a3 Nd7 16.Qa5 17.Qd3 Ra5 18.Qd2 Rf7 19.b3 Nf6 20.Qd1 N



The big picture

Robocop
Sat 10.05pm ITV

Peter Weller, with his redoubtably expressionless, though wonderfully sculpted lips and chin, was the perfect casting choice for the helmeted cyborg law enforcer in *Robocop*. Paul Verhoeven's 1987 sci-fi film basically steals the idea of *Judge Dredd* and swaps it in vicious media satire. Weller plays a cop murdered by an evil gang, then brought back to life as a machine to combat the forces of lawlessness that are rampant in the film's bleak vision of future capitalism. Verhoeven's primal, crude energy is perfect for the cartoonish story.

Television preview

RECOMMENDED VIEWING THIS WEEKEND
by Gerard Gilbert

Gaby's looking uncharacteristically po-faced in the publicity shots for *The Gaby Roslin Show* (Sat 4). Like a child pretending to be grown-up or a dimwit trying to look brainy. Not that Gaby is either childish or stupid. She is, though, famous for being blonde, formerly of *The Big Breakfast*, weeping openly, and for being so transparently nice that she makes all those other breakfast TV presenters seem merely cynical.

She's our queen of hearts and like dear Diana, she's having problems repositioning herself. *The Real Holiday Show* was an autocue reading job - but now she's been given a chat show, in an exercise hyped as reviving the chat show genre. Not that the chat show ever went away - it just went post-modern, with Letterman and Conan O'Brien in the States, and Jonathan Ross and Dame Edna over here. Whether it needs to be dragged back into the Parkinson era is debatable, but the first guests don't auger well either way. Des O'Connor wouldn't get out of bed for the ubiquitous Eddie Izzard or Kate Winslet (*of Sense and Sensibility*). Ike Turner is the only potentially interesting guest. Can Gaby handle it? Tune in and see.

By far the most interesting programme this weekend is more than 30 years old. The enduring power of *Callooden* (Sun BBC2), Peter Watkins' 1964 pseudo documentary in which the 1746 Battle of Callooden is subjected to TV documentary techniques, underlines what a terrible loss to British television was Watkins, who gave it all up after the BBC banned his similar treatment of a nuclear attack on Kent, *The War Game*. *Callooden* is being shown to mark the 250th anniversary of the battle in which Charles Edward Stuart was routed by the Hanoverians and assorted Protestant Scots (the line-up wasn't unlike a Celtic Rangers derby in some ways - except Celtic, like Bonnie Prince Charlie, don't have any French players). This innovative TV film is still strong meat today. It must have seemed even stronger to the generation before the Vietnam War.

Meanwhile, they've been pulling down the gau in Dunblane and Gloucester Council are considering demolishing 25 Cromwell Street. Plenty of other homes that are the sites of notorious murders are now, however, re-inhabited. *Infamous Addresses*

(Sat 4) finds out what it's like to live in the building where John Haigh dissolved bodies in acid, where George Smith drowned his wives, or where Jo Orton was bludgeoned to death by Kenneth Halliwell. John Christie, resident of 10 Rillington Place, is still on some company mailing lists apparently, despite the fact that Rillington Place met a bulldozer a quarter of a century ago.

One wouldn't mind living in Sting's rock star country mansion in Wiltshire. The *South Bank Show* (Sun ITV) manages a better snoop round this middle-bricked Jacobean pile than a recent *Hello!* feature, and Melvyn (having a bad hair day) gets quite a good take on this strangely Fuck-ish man.

I can suggest to the reader who wrote wondering about the contemporary meaning of the term "anorak" and "techno-nerd" to tune into *Triumph of the Nerds* (Sun C4), where all will be explained. This three-part series tells how young male techno-enthusiasts were the driving force behind the revolution that is putting personal computers into every home in the land. One such - Bill Gates - kicks off the series.



The big match

US Masters
Sat 8.05pm, Sun 9.05pm BBC2

As the cashmere-sweatered contestants tee up for the final rounds of the 60th US Masters, in the verdant setting of Augusta National, there will be several within driving distance of the coveted Green Jacket. Since Augusta's greens, traditionally lightning-fast, are believed this year to be even faster, the advantage will be with the great putters such as Faldo. And what of gentle Ben Crenshaw (above), last year's champion? According to the bookmakers, he's not even in the running - but last year he took the prize as a 50-1 outsider. Anything can happen.

Saturday television and radio

BBC1

7.25 News; Weather (1505503).
7.30 Children's BBC: *Imogirl* 7.40 *Willy Fog* 8.10
The Raccoons. 8.35 *The Addams Family*.
9.00 Live and Kicking. Music from young soul trio 3T,
Jas Mann of Babylon Zoo (S) (44281868).
12.12 Weather (6950077).
12.15 Grandstand, 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News.
1.05 Athletics: the Bupa International Road Races from Portsmouth. 1.55 *Racing from Ascot*. 2.00
Kestrel Novices Chase. 2.10 Touring Cars:
highlights from the opening two rounds of the Auto
Trader PAC British Touring Car Championship from
Donington Park. 2.30 Racing from Ascot: 2.35
Ladbrokes Handicap Hurdle. 2.45 Young Cars.
3.05 Racing from Ascot: 3.10 Lethaby &
Christopher Long Distance Hurdle. 3.20 Women's
Hockey. Great Britain v Netherlands from
Milton Keynes. 3.50 Football Half-Times. 4.00
Hockey. 4.40 Final Score (5) (47711936).
5.15 News; Weather (1045503).
5.25 Regional News and Weather (1991077).
5.30 Stay Tuned! Tony Robinson looks at the work of
animator Robert McKimson, the man behind Bugs
Bunny and Daffy Duck (S) (822313).
5.55 Big Bad Smoker and general knowledge with
guests Steve Davis (who's also on *They Think It's
All Over*, later) and Lee Richardson (S) (825400).
6.25 The New Adventures of Superman. Three German
soldiers placed in suspended animation during
World War II wake up in Metropolis with a spot of
world domination on their minds (S) (790752).
7.10 Confessions. Mysterious crop circles in Northern
Ireland explained - and a man confesses to taking
advantage when mistaken for a priest. Simon May
is the bloke doing all the talking (S) (834955). *
7.50 The National Lottery Live. Gary Wilmot gets the
balls rolling (S) (241145).
8.05 Bugs 2/2. Concluding half of the year about a plot
to stop the launch of a vital satellite (S) (156400).
8.55 News and Sport; Weather (Followed by National
Lottery Update) (144918). *
9.15 *Big Avalanche* (Peter Shapiro 1994 US). David
Hasselhoff swaps the sand for the snow and takes
on an unaccustomed bad-guy role this ho-hum
adventure about a ruthless smuggler (Hasselhoff)
setting off an avalanche which traps Michael Gross
and his bickering children in their cabin (422771).
10.45 Match of the Day. Southampton v Manchester
United (S) (2016874).
11.50 They Think It's All Over. Steve Davis and Gaby
Roslin are the guests (R) (S) (258619). *
12.20 *The Legend of the Werewolf* (Freddie Francis
1974 UK). That nice Dr Finlay, David Rintoul, can
be seen in a younger incarnation as a zoo worker, in
19th-century Paris, with behavioural problems
each full moon. Peter Cushing investigates
(852955).
1.50 Weather (5413530). To 1.55am.
REGIONS: Wales: 3.05pm Rugby Union: Swalec Cup
Semi-Final.

BBC2

6.00 Open University: Technology (7601042). 6.25
Maths (7793077). 6.50 *Fish and People*
(8777619). 7.15 Classical Sculpture and the
Enlightenment (6536706). 7.40 *Light in Search of a
Modus* (7636874). 8.05 *Handel's Messiah*
(1476612). 8.30 Writers in the 1930s (8698145).
8.55 *Why Do Peacocks Have Elaborate Tails?*
(8504752). 9.20 *Learning to Learn* (7908936).
9.45 A Robot in the Parlour? (4682232). 10.10
Seeing Through Maths (4235145). 10.35
Wendepunkte (2437874). 11.00 *Statistics*
(4402435). 11.25 *A School for Our Times?*
(5566313). 11.50 *Open Mind* (6579023).
12.15 *Shadow of the Hawk* (R) (S) (342951). *
12.45 *Oliver Twist* (David Lean 1948 UK). The first
and by far the best of David Lean films
showing today - a strikingly shot and edited version
of the Charles Dickens novel, with Alec Guinness's
master pickpocket Fagin so loathsome that he fell
foul of the Jewish group in America. An edited version
was released there in 1952. Also with Robert
Newton and Kay Walsh (91314435).
2.35 *Billie Spirit* (David Lean 1945 UK). Rather
arch version of Noel Coward's ectoplasmic wartime
comedy with Rex Harrison, Constance Cummings
and Kay Hammond trading the repartees. Harrison
is a novelist who summons up his dead first wife
(Hammond) in a seance, only for her to move in with
him and his second wife, Cummings (69467193).
4.10 *A Passage to India* (David Lean 1948 UK).
Muddled, over-rated version of EM Forster's
culture-clash novel set in late 1920s India, with
Leah seemingly more interested in the scenery
than Forster's biting hatred of the Raj British. Judy
Davis is good, however as the young, hysterical
Englishwoman who might or might not have been
raped by her Indian host (92527752). *
6.50 *What the Papers Say*. With Peter Bradshaw of the
London Evening Standard (S) (6966169).
7.05 News and Sport; Weather (462936). *
7.20 Correspondent. Following ex-tennis star Ilie
Nastase's bid to be elected as mayor of his home
town of Bucharest, Romania. Paul Martin Bell's
final dispatch from Bosnia (S) (645903).
8.05 *Golf - US Masters 1996*. Steve Rider introduces
live coverage from Georgia. See *The Big Match*,
above (S) (79559226).
11.00 *Court TV*. The case of George Loeb Jr, who was
accused of *murder* after he killed a man in what he
claims was self-defence. But Loeb was a white
supremacist and his victim was black (559353). *
11.50 *Big Star* (Hud Martin Ritt 1963 US). Rather timely
showing, what with mad cow disease, of Ritt's
generation-gap drama, with the conflict between
stem father (Mervyn Douglas) and free-living son
(Paul Newman) coming to a head over a government
order to slaughter their diseased cattle (S) (316428). *
14.50 *Later with Jools Holland*. With Sinéad O'Connor,
Dusty Springfield, Alison Moyet, and McAlmont
and Butler (R) (S) (9389849). To 2.50am.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV 6.00 News; Weather. 6.10 Re-Wind. 6.30
Bananas in Pyjamas. 6.40 *Eat Your Words*. 7.10
Barney and Friends. 7.40 Disney's *Wake Up in the
Wild Room*. 8.55 Mighty Morphin Power Rangers
(6557508).
9.25 *Telegraphicavision*. Guests this week include
children's TV presenter Gareth Jones and John
Corbett from *2Point5 Children* (S) (8613226).
10.25 *Spitzy* (R) (6952416).
10.55 *It's Not Just Saturday*. Drops in on a *Star Trek*
convention (S) (9050635).
11.30 *The Chart Show* (R) (S) (71936).
12.30 *Speakeasy* Emma Forbes presents the problem
page for young people, with advice from Dr Fintan
Coyne. (R) (S) (85951).
1.00 *News & Weather* (16539936). *
1.05 *London Today*. The latest news. (Followed by LWT
Weather) (16634435). *
1.10 *Champions League Special*. Jim Rosenthal sets
the scene for this Wednesday's semi-final, second-
leg matches featuring Ajax, Juventus, Panathinaikos and Nantes. (S) (696752).
1.45 *Movies, Games and Videos* (2611024).
2.15 *MTV Carry on Screening* (Gerald Thomas 1966
UK). One of the best - and least screened entries -
with Harry H Corbett, Kenneth Williams, Fenella
Fielding, Joan Sims and Jim Dale sending up
Hammer horror films (718435).
3.45 *Alnwick* (R) (342348).
4.45 *News; Sport; Weather* (8386110). *
5.05 *London Tonight and Sport* (8293706). *
5.25 *Batman* (8000042).
5.45 *Catchphrase*. Roy Walker hosts. (S) (880706). *
6.15 *Barrymore*. Provides a showcase for Bonnie
Langford and Alvin Stardust (S) (849619). *
7.15 *The Shame Richie Experience*. The guest
appearances are by Cobra and Hunter from
Gladiators, and pop group 4Mandu (S) (477684).
8.05 *Stars in Their Eyes*. People impersonate Gilbert
O'Sullivan, Kate Bush and Billy Fury (including
Lottery Result) (S) (230416). *
8.50 *News; National Lottery Update; Weather*
(Followed by LWT Weather) (194413). *
9.05 *The Governor*. Two prisoners claim Barfield has a
corrupt warden. Janet McTeer investigates (S)
(341077). *
10.05 *Robocop* (Paul Verhoeven 1987 US). See
The Big Picture, above (S) (270619). *
11.50 *Big Eight Special*. Northern Ireland's Emma
Loughran defends her WBO welterweight title
against Mexican Jose Luis Lopez, and Scotland's
Pau Weir attempts to regain the light-heavyweight title
from South Africa's "Baby" Jake Matila (151333).
12.35 *Pajama Party* (S) (4058646).
2.00 *Funny Business* (S) (8025443).
2.25 *Tropical Heat* (R) (S) (7242085).
3.15 *ET News Review* (S) (012443).
4.05 *God's Gift*. Followed by *Night Shift* (R)
(5098356).
5.05 *Coach* (S) (2976288). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

6.10 *Sesame Street* (R) (6429961).
7.05 *Little Dracula* (R) (7791690).
7.35 *Super Mario Brothers* (R) (7631329).
8.00 *Trans World Sport* (51313).
9.00 *The Morning Line* a preview of today's top racing.
(165342).
10.00 *The Greatest*. Barry John and Nick Faldo under
consideration (R) (S) (14110). *
10.30 *NBA 24/7*. LA Lakers v San Antonio Spurs (R)
(73954).
11.00 *Gazetta Football Italia* (50400).
12.00 *Sign On: Sex* (Dot Women's Lib) (S) (28226).
12.30 *The Great Maratha* (56597).
1.00 *Suzie* (Alain Delon and Otto Brower 1938
US). Tyrone Power plays 19th-century French
engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps - as bizarre as that
seems - in this lavish fox flop co-starring Loretta
Young (67662077). *
2.45 *Blood and Sand* (Rouben Mamoulian
1941 US). Tyrone Power again, this time cast as
a matador falling for seductress Rita Moreno
in this rehash of the 1932 Valentine classic
(92677619).
5.05 *Brookside* (R) (S) (3500139). *
6.30 *Right to Reply* (S) (6741). *
7.00 *Channel 4 News* and *Summary and Weather*
(554961).
7.15 *Everybody's Baby: The Rescue of Jessica
McClellan* (Mel Dinkski 1989 US). Dramatic
reconstruction of the race to save the life of an 18-
month-old girl who fell down a well in Texas in
1987. Starring Sean Bean (10077690). *
9.00 *The Gaby Roslin Show*. See Preview, above (S)
(2771).
10.00 *Drop the Dead Donkey* (R) (S) (29955). *
10.30 *Infamous Addresses*. See Preview, above (S)
(346503).
11.05 *Homicide - Life on the Street*. An episode from
Barry Levinson's drama series about a team of
Baltimore homicide detectives (R) (S) (7613179). *
12.05 *Murder in Ostendio Precinct*. First Tuesday
repeat (yes, that old) following Moscow Murder
Squad detectives across the old Soviet Union in
search of the killer of a woman found dead in a
Moscow flat (R) (5457882). *
1.05 *The Stalker*. True-life crime, first shown in *Errol
Morris' *Interview* Stories*, about ex-soldier
Thomas McIlvaney, who was soon fired from the
postal service before embarking on a bloody spree
that left four dead (R) (S) (6433172).
1.25 *Persistence of Memory*. When a scientist enters
an unstable computer simulation of his own
creation, he finds himself at the heart of a murder
investigation (R) (217998).
1.50 *Robocop* (Paul Verhoeven 1987 US). See
The Big Picture, above (S) (270619). *
11.50 *Big Eight* Special. Northern Ireland's Emma
Loughran defends her WBO welterweight title
against Mexican Jose Luis Lopez (S) (7242085).
1.00 *Reindeer* (R) (2160235). 2.15 *Motorcycle*
(6730235). 2.45 *Alnwick* (R) (2160232). 2.50 *Business*
(2926207). 2.55 *Callooden* (S) (652232). 2.58 *Football*
(5056398). 3.00 *Brookside* (S) (6500139). 3.30 *Home*
(836145). 3.30 *Customs Classified* (5871288).
4.05 *Brookside* (S) (6500139). 4.30 *Holby City* (7874234). 5.00 *Wanted Dead or Alive* (83462).
5.30 *Freecell* (88482).

ITV/Regions

AS London except: 12.30pm *Movies, Games and
Videos* (589551). 1.40 *Women* (94512874). 1.55 *Film Hunt*
(8478232). 3.15 *Robot Cop* (515145). 3.20 *Baron*
(8478232). 3.25 *Runaway* (8478232). 3.50 *Arival*
(8478232). 3.50 *Ryan's Story* (8478232). 3.50 *Business*
(8478232). 3.50 *Customs Classified* (5871288).
4.15 *Team Coach* (40463377). 4.35 *Cue the Music*
(7610751). 5.00-5.30am *Sound Bites* (770751).
ITV As London except: 12.30pm *Movies, Games and
Videos* (589551). 1.40 *Cartoon* (94512874). 2.10 *Cartoon*
(3454582). 2.25 *Robot Cop* (515145). 3.20 *Arival*
(8478232). 4.15 *Body Heat* (8478232). 5.10 *Central
Match - Goals Extra* (1686400). 5.20 *Batman*
(1620232). 5.20 *Funny Business* (2926207). 5.30 *Business*
(2926207). 5.35 <

JULY 1996

saturday story

Nic Cicutti looks at the implications for savers and borrowers of the building society bonanza

The death of the building society

Fifteen months ago, Peter Jenkins had a brainwave. A financial adviser, he already had a savings account with Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, then being taken over by Lloyds Bank. His mortgage was with the Halifax.

Then, news broke of Halifax's plan to merge with Leeds Permanent and float on the Stock Exchange, giving each of its members free shares worth about £1,000 each. "Well, it was too good to miss," he explained.

"I suddenly thought if Halifax is doing it, all the others are bound to sooner or later. So I looked up a list of the top 15 building societies and stuck £100 into each one."

He estimates his brainwave will net him about £4,000 in cash and free shares by the time each of the societies planning to de-mutualise do so by the end of next year, a return of more than 250 per cent.

Mr Jenkins is a very happy man: "In a choice between hundreds of pounds today and a few quid off your mortgage every month, which one do you go for?"

Millions of others who in the past two years have been offered a share in the planned £18bn stockmarket flotation of nearly all Britain's mutual building societies have resolved the dilemma in a similar way.

To vote against the de-mutualisation of their society, be it the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, or Northern Rock, could cost them free shares worth up to £1,000 each. Faced with that choice, there has been overwhelming support for ending the mutual status of building societies.

Last Thursday, it was announced that a 9.62 per cent of National & Provincial savers had voted for a £1.35bn takeover bid by Abbey National. But it is more than a few free shares that are at stake. The decision by virtually every top-10 building society to float or collapse into the arms of a predator could bring to an end one of the longest-running experiments in the closest thing we have to the stakeholder company. The demise of the "movement" as the dominant player in the mortgage and savings market brings to an end a 220-year history of mutual aid and support.

Building societies, together with other mutually-owned organisations, were forged out of the Industrial Revolution in the late 18th century. Their aim was to build up funds to buy land and build homes

for their members. Initially with only 20 or 30 members, predominantly artisans, the societies usually drew lots to allocate the housing. When a home for every member had been built, the society would close.

By the mid-19th century, this changed as societies started to lend money to buy property, financed out of savings on which interest was paid. The explosive growth of a industrial working class meant that by the turn of the century, there were more than 1,700 societies.

Barely a year ago, after decades of mergers between smaller societies, the 80 still remaining controlled more than 70 per cent of mortgage lending. By next summer,

they will have fallen to less than 30 per cent.

The demise of such a powerful movement seemed barely possible a short while ago. That it could have happened is the result a combination of factors, the changing character of the financial industry the chief reason among them.

Despite the rear-guard battle by Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley and others, including the belated handing back of hundreds of millions of pounds in profits to their members, the battle over mutuality is largely lost. Norwich Union's recent announcement that it too is considering a flotation, marks the first breach in the ranks of mutual insurers. Small societies, operating on the margins, among a loyal local following, may still survive. But the proud behemoths of the past will not be more.

Peter Jenkins will miss them: "I do feel sorry for building societies. In a lot of ways, I actually believe in the ideal of mutual support they stand for ... a softer, gentler type of society and all that. But if you are offered the chance to make a bit of money, how can you turn it down?"

ity of building societies had long lost sight of the ideal.

Anyone forced to sit through a society annual meeting, the only forum through which members could express their views, will tell a similar story - endless gripes aimed at an impulsive board at the top table, while weak coffee and Garibaldi biscuits are served to a small band of mainly elderly democrats.

In contrast, the would-be banks

claim, shareholder democracy demands you are the best and most competitive, because in a free market the only way to remain in business is to keep your customers happy. If shareholders don't like the way their business is run, they can demand change. If they don't like the way their bank is run, they can close their accounts and sell their shares.

Nor do we notice when things change. Peter White, chief executive at Alliance & Leicester, one of the de-mutualising societies argued: "The debate about mutuality is a red herring. Since the Abbey National became the first to convert it has remained a building society in the public's perception."

The irony, as the consumer magazine *Which?* points out, is that despite the boredom factor, building societies have delivered cheaper mortgages and higher savings rates than banks.

A £10,000 investment in an average building society account would have delivered £380 more after five years than with a bank deposit account. Smaller societies have tended to be even more competitive, adding an average of £200 more to that investment. Mortgages at Nationwide are 0.5 per cent cheaper than at Abbey National.

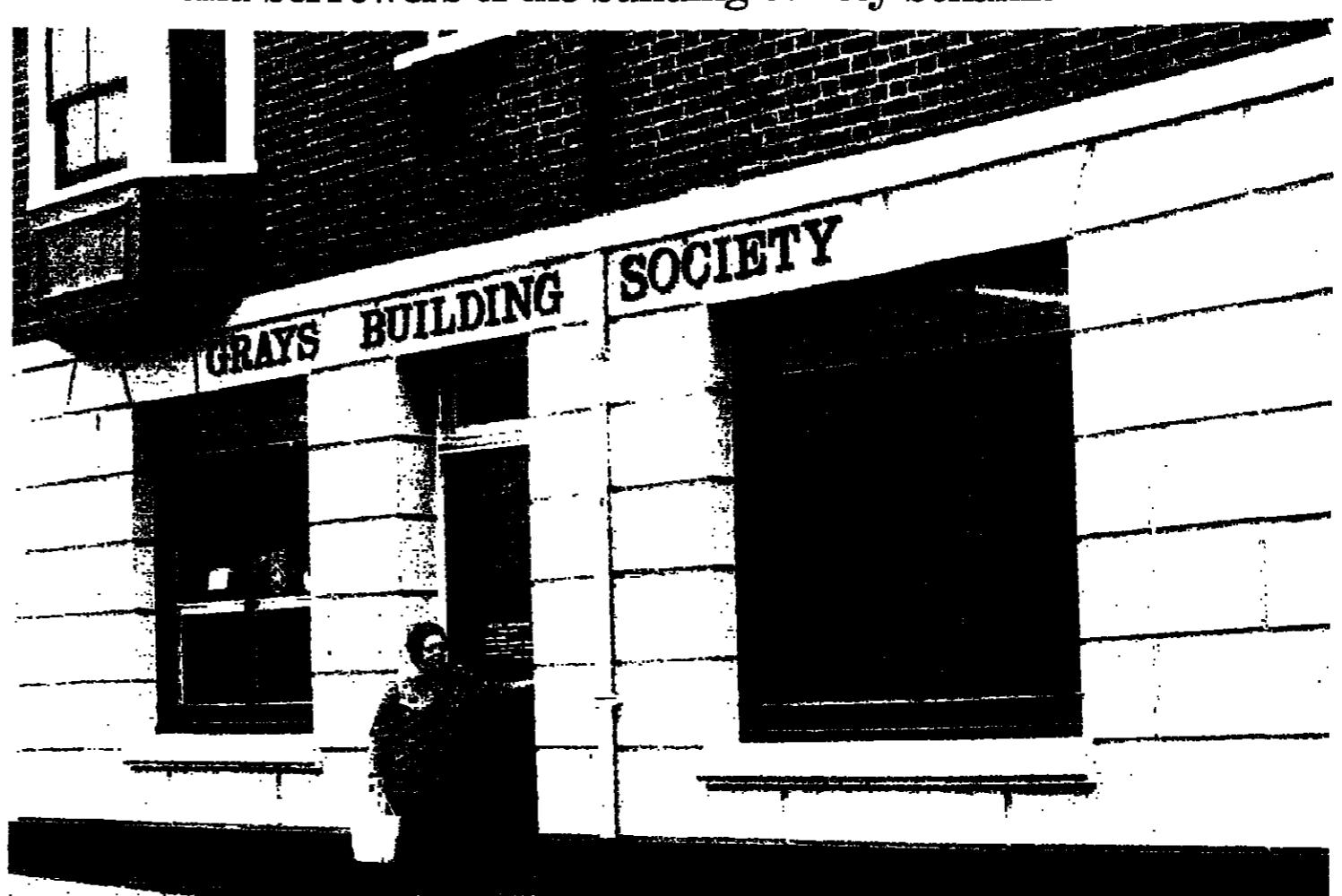
Halifax - Britain's biggest society, with about 10 million members, including 1.9 million borrowers. Merged with Leeds Permanent last year. Valued at £10bn. Plans to float in the summer of 1997.

Members will receive an estimated £500 worth of shares, plus a further amount based on savings balances. Along with other societies planning to de-mutualise, it has not yet standardised rates. Shareholders wouldn't like a cut in profits.

Woolwich - the third-largest society, with about 3.5 million members, including 600,000 borrowers. Estimated to be worth up to £3bn. Rocked by resignation of its chief executive, Peter Robinson, over alleged financial irregularities. Plans to put flotation proposals to members in April, with de-mutualisation in late summer 1997. Shares distribution "will be similar" to Halifax.

Alliance & Leicester - fourth-largest. Valued at about £2.5bn. About three million members, including 500,000 borrowers, who may be in line for about £800 to £1,000 of free shares. The society is one of the most diversified - since 1990 has owned Girobank, a UK clearing bank operating through the Post Office. A&L aims to beat Woolwich to the draw on flotation date.

National & Provincial - seventh-largest, its 1.4 million members voted on Thursday for a £1.35bn takeover by Abbey National. In August,



Going, going, gone? Where building societies stand

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Abbey National - the mammy and the daddy of them all. The first to float in 1989, giving each of its five million members 100 free shares worth £130. Shares were worth £5.61 yesterday, down from a peak of £6.61. There are now 2.4 million shareholders, less than half the original number.

PLANNING FOR FLOAT OR TAKEOVER

Halifax - Britain's biggest society, with about 10 million members, including 1.9 million borrowers. Merged with Leeds Permanent last year. Valued at £10bn. Plans to float in the summer of 1997.

Members will receive an estimated £500 worth of shares, plus a further amount based on savings balances. Along with other societies planning to de-mutualise, it has not yet standardised rates. Shareholders wouldn't like a cut in profits.

Woolwich - the third-largest society, with about 3.5 million members, including 600,000 borrowers. Estimated to be worth up to £3bn. Rocked by resignation of its chief executive, Peter Robinson, over alleged financial irregularities. Plans to put flotation proposals to members in April, with de-mutualisation in late summer 1997. Shares distribution "will be similar" to Halifax.

Alliance & Leicester - fourth-largest. Valued at about £2.5bn. About three million members, including 500,000 borrowers, who may be in line for about £800 to £1,000 of free shares. The society is one of the most diversified - since 1990 has owned Girobank, a UK clearing bank operating through the Post Office. A&L aims to beat Woolwich to the draw on flotation date.

National & Provincial - seventh-largest, its 1.4 million members voted on Thursday for a £1.35bn takeover by Abbey National. In August,

borrowers will get cash or shares worth £500. Savers will get £750, plus seven per cent of savings balances up to a £50,000 maximum.

Northern Rock - a relative minnow, with about a million members, including 250,000 borrowers. Strong regional player in North-east. Rotation a defensive move: intends to stick to niche mortgage and savings market. Valued at £1bn, its members will receive shares worth up to £1,000 each. Vote in April, flotation in October.

Bristol & West - ninth-largest: 1.2 million savers and 200,000 borrowers. Analysts value it at £600-£800m; possible pay-out of about £750 per member if it accepts bid by Bank of Ireland.

Other medium-ranked societies to have spoken in favour of mutual status include: The Skipton, which acquired fame when John Major praised it in the Commons for offering free unemployment insurance; the Coventry, which announced a £20m annual package of cheaper mortgages and higher savings rates last month, and the Portman, led by Building Societies Association chairman Ken Culley.

IN PLAY

Birmingham Midshires - Not large (some 700,000 savers and 100,000 borrowers), unlike the ambition of its chief executive, Mike Jackson. (He is tipped as possible replacement for Peter Robinson at Woolwich.) Under him, it has competed aggressively, building a £7bn mortgage book. Valued at £450m. Ripe for takeover or merger.

Chelsea - Ranked 18th, with 50,000 borrowers and 200,000 savers. Well-run society. Often compared to Cheltenham & Gloucester, itself taken over by Lloyds Bank last year. Has in the past strongly backed mutuality, but observers note recent silence from its Cheltenham headquarters.

Other societies tipped include West Bromwich, enmeshed in a damaging war with regulators over mortgages granted to many elderly people. The money was invested to provide income and repay the loan. But the home income schemes went belly-up, leaving borrowers thousands of pounds in debt. Ripe for takeover by a mutual.

Jo Brand's week

I had never believed in the concept of jet lag, until it hit me squarely in every bit of my body after arriving in Sydney this week. I have now walked round like a zombie for several days, getting words wrong and falling asleep at the most unusual times. Well, I assume it's jet lag. It may have something to do with the aircraft staff spraying the entire plane with insecticide before we were allowed off. What a bizarre thing to do, and something everyone I know who has been to Australia has failed to mention. At least they didn't give us all a bell and instruct us to wander round shouting, "Unclean!" I was also advised that on a long flight, it is very important to remove shoes as feet and ankles swell. Sure enough, after 22 hours, my ankles and feet looked huge. No change there then.

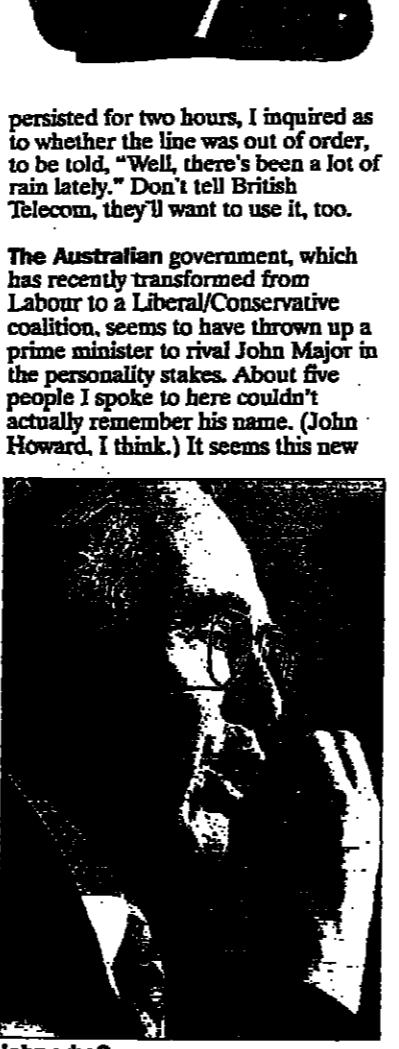
Sydney has reassuringly named areas such as Paddington and King's Cross. Despite the fact I am on the other side of the world, the climate is also reminiscent of good old Blighty as well, with rain and stiff breezes. In this lone island paradise, however, I had not expected to come across some of the more unacceptable aspects of England. Jeff, with whom I am touring, went off for a walk on the day of our arrival and was told in no uncertain terms by two tramps to "F--- off." Sweet, isn't it?

Morning television in Australia is similar to ours in Britain, although

there are some differences. Every few minutes over here, the viewer is transported away from the presenter to someone in a hideous leotard who tries to sell them a painful-looking implement designed to flatten the tummy. Failing the appearance of Ms Hideous Leotard, the viewer is presented with a stressed-looking housewife who has just lost 12 stone in an hour at somewhere called Gloria's. This morning we were blessed with a real treat, a contraption called a "Treadmill", on which you can stroll for hours in the comfort of your own home. "Treadmill" struck me as a particularly appropriate name for a pointless piece of metal for women to add to their ever-expanding armoury of keep-fit objects, as they wheeze ever onwards in the battle to keep in shape.

I am off to Tasmania this weekend, to visit a friend of mine who, having been a frustrated and bored anaesthetist in London, is now a GP there. Tasmania has the same sort of reputation in Australia as the Isle of Man has in Britain. Homosexuality is a no-no, and its existence appears to be monitored by various Neighbourhood Watch-type groups. One assumes that like the rest of Australia, Tasmania is anti-monarchy. Well, any opportunity to get rid of another old queen.

I heard the best excuse ever from a telephone operator today, about why I could not get through to my friend in Tasmania. After the engaged signal



government could hardly wait to renege on its promises and is planning to downsize (as they say in America) the civil service.

Meanwhile, in Victoria, the main man, Paul Keating, who has the reputation of being a cross between Margaret Thatcher and Saddam Hussein, has gone a bit bonkers and suggested legalising cannabis. Could be interesting. For myself, I hardly feel like I need to get involved with a drug that increases the appetite.

No one has said "G'day" to me yet. No one has called me "cobber". I've heard not one mention of "Bruce" or "Sheila". Neither have I been congratulated with a "good on yer" or spotted a single person in a hat with corks swinging off it. Nobody has sung "Waltzing Matilda" or used the word "Aboriginal", let alone showed any signs of dating or, indeed, copulating with a woolly animal. Nobody has shown any signs of moralising in the banal and predictable fashion of *Neighbours* and there certainly are not any Les Pattersons around, dribbling down their clothes. (Apart from me with my jet lag, of course.)

Having said that, neither myself nor Jeff nor our tour manager has anything with a Union Jack on it. None of us has been heard bemoaning the fact that we can't get a decent cup of tea. We haven't gone out without any sun cream on and turned into lobsters. We haven't shouted very loudly at anyone or insisted on "proper" milk. We haven't sung any football songs, peed in the street, demanded chips or worn socks with sandals. Where do these stereotypes come from? I think it's probably just one person in each country who is responsible. In the coming weeks, I may change my mind and, hopefully, my mind will change back to its old self and I will cease to be a walking coma in the jet lag department. I feel a coma coming on now. G'day cobbers.

SHORT BREAK SPECIALS

2 NIGHTS
BED & BREAKFAST FROM

£16.50
PER PERSON PER NIGHT

DINNER,
BED & BREAKFAST
FROM £26

BB £16.50
Quote P780

DB&B £26
Quote P782

BB £28
Quote P785

DB&B £39
Quote P786

BB £33
Quote P785

DB&B £44
Quote P785

Enjoy a short break that will feel more like a holiday!



The Beverly Arms
The Royal Norfolk
The Roundhouse
The White Hart
The Carrick
The Angel & Royal
The Manor House
The Swan
The Black Bear
The Golden Lion
Palace Hotel
Portsmouth
Southampton
Southwicks
Tewkesbury
Banbridge
Bath
The Red Lion
The Dolphin
The Polygon
Royal Hop Farm
The Rose & Crown
The Grand Atlantic

BB £38
Quote P783

DB&B £49
Quote P783

BB £42
Quote P783

BB £45
Quote P783

BB £46
Quote P783

BB £47
Quote P783

BB £48
Quote P783

BB £49
Quote P783

BB £50
Quote P783

BB £51
Quote P783

BB £52
Quote P783

BB £53
Quote P783

BB £54
Quote P783

BB £55
Quote P783

BB £56
Quote P783

BB £57
Quote P783

BB £58
Quote P783

BB £59
Quote P783

BB £60
Quote P783

BB £61
Quote P783

BB £62
Quote P783

BB £63
Quote P783

BB £64
Quote P783

BB £65
Quote P783

BB £66
Quote P783

BB £67
Quote P783

BB £68
Quote P783

BB £69
Quote P783

Our worst child abuse scandal must not be hushed up

A national scandal is unfolding in north Wales. A report into what could be Britain's most appalling child abuse case is being suppressed. The scandal is not just that at least 100, and possibly double that number, children were systematically abused, while in the "care" of the state in the 1970s and Eighties. It is that a 300-page report into the affair has not been published and there is little sign that it will be soon.

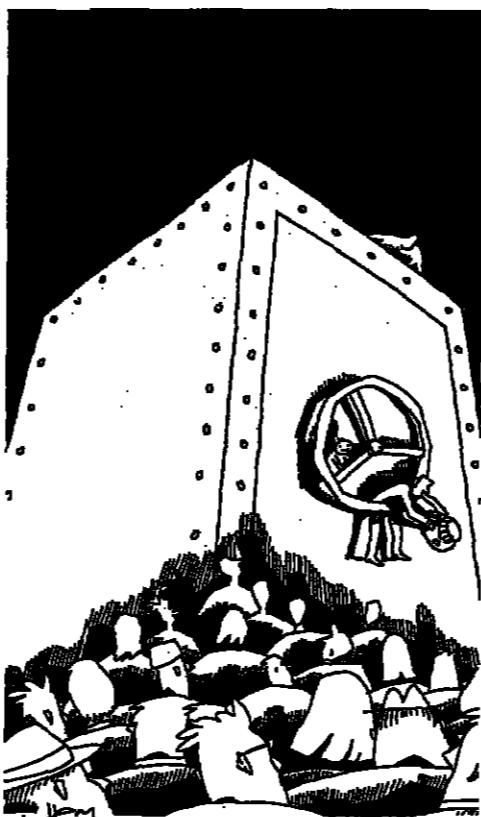
The scandal is one of the most organised and widespread cases of child abuse yet uncovered, involving a network of people in different local authority homes. At least 16 former inmates of the homes have since died, several through suicide, in circumstances that were related to their dreadful treatment. It is not as if the authorities were unaware of what has gone on. Since 1974, more than 50 staff have been disciplined and several have been convicted. Yet none of the 14 reports into the affair, 12 of them internal, has been published. This is a cover-up on a massive scale. The public is being denied information about how services operated in its name have been systematically exploited for the purposes of sexual abuse of the most vulnerable children. Victims are being denied access to the information they need for redress.

The latest and most comprehensive report was compiled by a team of three external childcare experts led by John Jilling, the former head of Derbyshire social services. It was commissioned last year by Clwyd County Council. Earlier this month, the council decided not to publish the Jilling report and demanded that all numbered copies of the document be handed in for publication.

It is said the council took this decision because it feared publication would lay it open to legal claims. There are some suggestions that the council's legal advisers warned that the report was libellous. Another suggestion is that the council's insurers, Municipal Mutual, warned councillors that the report would help the victims to pursue claims for damages against the council. The insurer is alleged to have warned the council that in those circumstances it would not provide cover for the claims against the council. There are still other allegations that this has provided the council with a convenient excuse for not publishing the report.

That is not the end of the story, though. Neither the insurance company nor the council exists any more. Clwyd County Council was swept away at the end of March in another wave of local government reorganisation. Responsibility for the report has now passed to Flintshire County Council, which has "administrative" responsibility for it. Pinning down the insurance company is just as difficult. Municipal Mutual, which was a leading local authority insurer, went bust in October 1992. Most of its business was then bought by Zurich Mutual, a Swiss giant. Zurich Mutual denies it has any responsibility for the case. It says it is a matter for Municipal Mutual, but Municipal Mutual is winding down.

So this is the situation. One of the worst child abuse scandals ever is met with a wall of organised irresponsibility and buck passing. The history of abuse and mismanagement at the homes is compounded by the way the imperatives of the private insurance market and the secrecy of local



government have worked together to prevent publication of a vital report.

As a result, answers to even the simplest of questions are difficult to obtain: who is now responsible for deciding whether the report should be published? Put another way: whose report is it?

It seems the answer to both questions will be William Hague, the Secretary of State for Wales. A version of the Jilling report is sitting on Mr Hague's desk, awaiting his return from a trade mission to the United States. It is not Mr Hague's report. But, at the end of the day, in the highly imperfect world created by our system of local government, it seems that, politically, Mr Hague's office is the only place where a decision about publication can be taken.

That is not completely illogical. The Welsh Office is not immune from criticism. It is responsible for overseeing the funding of Welsh local authorities. It operates the system of inspections that so clearly failed to identify or do anything about abuse that took place over many years. Yet it is also an indictment of the way that the case has been handled that a decision on whether to publish the Jilling report should be taken only when the buck is passed all the way up to the Secretary of State.

One lesson from the affair is that the legal status of these reports needs to be clarified to make it clear what power insurance companies have over them. It is quite normal for there to be a conflict of interest between an insurance company and someone making a claim against it. However, where the interests of the insurance company

threaten to override the public interest, as they might do in this case, it should be perfectly possible to arrange exceptions. One step would be a voluntary code of practice adopted by insurers to make clear they will not prevent publication of information in the public interest. Zurich Mutual, for its part, says it would never seek to prevent a councillor making public such a report. It would simply point out, in the normal way, that claims against a policy would probably lead to loss of discounts or bonuses. There is nothing similar in this; it's just normal insurance practice.

However, a better solution may to give reports such as this special legal protection to make sure they can be published. One possibility might be that inquiries such as this should be conducted under the wing of a public watchdog answerable to Parliament, such as the National Audit Commission. This formalisation of the status of these reports would help the insurance companies. It would make it clear they had no influence over whether reports such as this could be published. That would put councillors squarely on the spot to take responsibility for making the information public. They could not hide behind the insurers. In the long run, the only way we can have any hope that scandals like the Clwyd will not occur again is if documents such as the Jilling report are made public and the lessons within them are learnt.

This is the most troubling issue Mr Hague has had to deal with since assuming his post. He should consider long and hard *how* to publish the report. But the answer to the big question is already clear: the report must be published and Mr Hague must order it to be published.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

National Lottery is a success

Sir: Your leader (11 April) about the National Lottery raises important issues about regulation and distribution of money to good causes.

Parliament decided on the distribution of money to good causes. Already the distributing bodies have made over 5,500 awards to projects the length and breadth of the country. As the number of awards increase, I will continue to keep under review the rules which allow the benefits of the National Lottery to be felt by people in every community.

I have already made changes to the rules on distribution. On 1 April I announced that lottery money could be used, for the first time, on developing the talents and potential of people such as talented athletes and sports people and individual performers and young artists.

The UK lottery is one of the most effectively regulated lotteries in the world. Parliament is the ultimate regulator. The National Audit Office, the Public Accounts Committee and the National Heritage Select Committee have all scrutinised various aspects of the organisation, regulation and distribution of lottery funds. It is wrong

Evidence of contamination from Chernobyl

Sir: In claiming that the Chernobyl death toll numbers hundreds of thousands the Ukrainian Government is likely to be correct ("Confusion as scientists dispute the death toll after Chernobyl", 10 April).

Chernobyl fallout was measurable not just in Scotland, but as far away as the US, where a number of health effects were identified. These included increases in thyroid cancer and neonatal hypothyroidism, despite the fact that doses from radio-iodine were between 1,000 and 10,000 times smaller than in Belarus and the Ukraine.

This does not suggest excessive participation. But there will be further research, and I will continue to monitor the results of that work, taking appropriate action if it is justified.

In an extremely short period of time, the National Lottery has become the most dynamic national institution in Britain. It is the most successful of its kind in the world. It devotes one of the highest proportions of proceeds to good causes, and one of the lowest to running costs. I intend to ensure that it remains a success.

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY
Secretary of State for
National Heritage
Department of
National Heritage
London SW1

more. A reassessment of internal dosimetry is urgently needed.

RICHARD BRAMHALL
Low Level Radiation
Campaign
Bulth Wells, Powys

Sir: Your editorial is right to identify both the need to close the two remaining Chernobyl reactors as soon as possible and the importance of G7 aid to help achieve this. However, the terms of the G7 deal on offer envisage the majority of the \$2.3bn being spent on the completion of two new nuclear reactors in Ukraine, with all the safety, environmental and economic problems this will inevitably entail. Such a course of action would only exacerbate the country's energy and economic problems.

Ukraine is one of the most energy intensive countries in the world, a combination of both large consumption by

heavy industry and poor efficiency in the whole energy sector. As prices for energy in the region reach world market levels, Ukraine will find itself increasingly unable to provide income to meet its fuel bills and the critical state of the country's economy will worsen.

If the G7 is serious about helping Ukraine, the grants and loans it can provide should be directed at improving the efficiency of energy use there. The G7 money invested in energy efficiency could obviate the need for the two new reactors, as well as allowing the closure of Chernobyl.

The UK knows that nuclear power is uneconomic. John Major should be calling for a sensible and sustainable energy policy at the forthcoming G7 meeting.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGET WOODMAN
Greenpeace UK
London N1

Organic health

Sir: My heartfelt thanks to your writers who put the case so compellingly for organic and less intensive farming methods (9 April).

I, for one, would choose to buy organic produce every time and, we the consumers, should demand this and also demand that it be made more easily available and cheaper.

The Government is always going on about the health of the nation. Increasing exposure to harmful chemicals and other aspects of intensive farming is not only jeopardising our health but the health of future generations yet unborn.

ANN HARRIMAN
St Leonards on Sea,
East Sussex

Sir: You are quite right ("Where is the CJD epidemic?", 11 April) – there is no question of an "epidemic" and there never will be what is generally understood by the word "epidemic". We are not dealing with smallpox or typhoid here: this organism is not a bacterium or an ordinary virus – it is unique and the majority of humans are not likely to be susceptible to it however big a dose they have swallowed.

What is important about these newly-reported cases of CJD in the UK is that they are all so young. Classical CJD does not declare itself until the sufferers are in their sixties or older. Here, in the UK, we suddenly see the disease behaving in a new way, namely appearing in ten people under the age of 40, half of them under 20. What is there about the UK that might have caused it?

H C GRANT
London NW3

Sir: Our food is not "coated with thick layers of chemicals" ("Can British farming go green?", 9 April). Where residues occur they are of the order of a part per million and usually occur much less. Residues in crops are subject to statutory maximum residue levels.

DAVID J EAGLE
(Retired soil scientist)
Little Shelford,
Cambridgeshire

Sir: Animal welfare has long been campaigning for improved conditions in our slaughterhouses. Amongst other things they have urged that slaughtermen should be better trained and paid as skilled workers. On no account should they be employed on piece-rates with all the opportunities to "cut corners" that such employment presents.

If the Government had taken notice they would have engaged sufficient inspectors to implement such improvements. Then, perhaps, they would also have been alerted to other corner-cutting activities such as those concerning safety and hygiene.

JOAN HAGGARD
Harpden, Berkshire

Sir: In view of the catastrophe that faces the British beef and dairy industries in Britain, shouldn't we be ploughing up grant-assisted "set aside" land to plant mangel and other winter feed today, in preparation for "organically" feeding our remaining cattle tomorrow?

GILLIAN O'SULLIVAN
High Roding,
Essex

RUTH PICARDIE Jobs for the girls



to Earth, Liz got on with her life, having just taken a job as an icon for the people at Estee Lauder. Look, here she is in Vogue, advertising Perfectionist Lightweight Creme Makeup: "Luminous, polished, refined." And why not? Liz is luminous, polished, refined.

Good for you, Liz. But how long will it last? Because you know how people talk:

"Hello, my name is Lisa and I'll be looking after you on today's flight to Singapore."

"Singapore? I'm on my way to Washington!"

"Don't worry, sir, we're flying the other way today."

"But I've got a vital meeting at 3pm. Will we make it in time?"

"Of course we will, sir! We're just stopping off in Germany for a few weeks." (Smiles brightly.)

"Please make sure your seat is in an upright position."

"What about the safety talk?"

"Oh, don't bother with any more, sir. Virgin trusts its staff implicitly." (Smiles brightly.)

"Can I get you something to drink?"

"Oh God... get me a large whisky."

"I'm sorry, sir. We only have water available today. I think you'll find it goes very well with the dry bread."

"Just give me a pair of earphones, will you?"

"Certainly, sir. Our film programme today is *Wall Street*, followed by *Escape from Alcatraz*." (Smiles brightly.)

"Just kidding! As the people at Estee Lauder said this week, Liz's appointment was "based on her own merits, personality, and skills"."

"Next, teetering ever so slightly in her sparkly shoes, comes lovely Liz Hurley, girlfriend of the disgraced film star Hugh Grant. When he fell

"The moral? If you're going to be famous, get there on your own merits. Otherwise, you're only as good as the man who got you there in the first place."

"Heh, heh, heh..."

"I'm sorry, sir. The idea of the manager of a restaurant, where the food is awful, is something he probably doesn't want to hear. In fact, he probably doesn't care about the food at all. He probably doesn't care about the service either. He probably doesn't care about the atmosphere. He probably doesn't care about the cleanliness of the restaurant. He probably doesn't care about the hygiene of the restaurant. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care about the presentation of the food. He probably doesn't care about the price of the food. He probably doesn't care about the value for money of the food. He probably doesn't care about the quality of the food. He probably doesn't care about the freshness of the food. He probably doesn't care about the taste of the food. He probably doesn't care

hed up

PROFILE

The cleverest bird on two legs

No wonder investors were drawn to the ostrich. It's a remarkable success, says Nicholas Schoon

The ostrich is renowned for its stupidity, but it is the thousands of investors in the stricken Ostrich Farming Corporation who are feeling foolish this weekend. When they sent off their cheques for thousands of pounds to buy one of the birds their heads must surely have been buried somewhere in the sand. Surely "guaranteed" rates of return of at least 50 per cent from such an unlikely investment should have aroused suspicion.

This was not a biotechnology company about to reap huge returns from a major advance in genetics. Nor was it an emerging market fund, feeding off the prodigious growth of developing market economies in South-east Asia. This was an investment in a bird. And a bird which has a reputation for stupidity at that.

There were some warnings in the press that an ostrich was not an investment covered by the usual compensation arrangements underwritten by law; that the OFC's managing director Brian Ketchell had business failures earlier in his career. The corporation's offices on a wooded business park near Mansfield in Nottinghamshire are empty.

Ostriches are not stupid, at least not for a bird. They have simply had some ridiculously bad press

will be a market for their tasty red meat and soft leather hides.

Of course this is not the first time investors have been suckered into an investment of obvious ridiculousness. In the 17th century, the Dutch lost fortunes on a tulip investment bubble. There was more recently a fashion for investment in angora goats for their fine wool (how often do you see people wearing them?). Yet in the history of such exotic livestock investment opportunities none seems quite so fitting as the stupid ostrich.

But we should be wary of writing off the ostrich quite so confidently. For ostriches are not stupid, at least not for a bird. They have simply had some ridiculously bad press.

No ostrich has ever been documented as sticking its head in the sand to hide from a threat. The idea that they ever did probably arose from their habit of lying their long necks and head flat on the ground when sitting on the nest, the better to hide themselves from predators. Quite clever, really.

When a group of them is surprised they scatter at top speed in all directions. That makes them look silly, but it is a sensible strate-

gy for confusing a serious predator such as a lion.

They abandon eggs in large numbers, pushing them out of their big earthen nests to form a "doomed ring" of unincubated ovoids. That appears deeply foolish.

But, as the ostrich expert Dr Brian Bertram explains, it turns out to be an exercise in ingenuity. Ostrich nests are a sort of collective. Dug out by the male, they are attended by one female who lays the bulk of the 5lb creamy white

eggs over a few weeks. Other females, which may have no more space in their own nests, pop in to add eggs of their own without the resident mother complaining.

If more eggs are laid than she can cover with her wings and body (36 is not unusual) she begins to cast some out. To us, all the eggs look the same, but fieldwork by Dr

Bertram and colleagues in East Africa has shown that the resident female almost never ejects any of her own. Clever of her, don't you think?

Captive ostriches are notorious for eating the inedible – nails, bits of glass and other sharp objects, which then do them great harm. But this seems slightly less stupid when you consider that, in the wild, they regularly swallow largish stones to help grind up vegetable food in their gizzards.

No, the case for the ostrich goes even further than this, if you take the broad, biological view. How did a bird that lost its ability to fly become an evolutionary success story, covering the arid and semi-arid regions of all Africa and spreading into Arabia? Imagine what would have happened to us if a vital function, such as the ability to walk, was taken away from us? Seen in that light the ostrich must be a remarkably clever bird to have survived, despite such disadvantage. It is a bird that can compete with mammals on their own terms and survive; no mean feat.

And do not underestimate the street-fighting instincts of a bird that has managed to prosper despite such deprivations. The ostrich may be a vegetarian by nature, but corner a 15-stone, 8ft tall adult and it can turn vicious. Each foot bears two toes that can rip a human body open; several people have been killed by them.

At the start of the Nineties only a few dozen ostriches were being raised in Britain but today there are 10,000 (so if they all get angry and out of control at the same time there could be a riot).

Indeed the farming of the ostrich

may be the latest act in its defiance of evolutionary gravity. Wild ostrich populations have been hard hit by hunting and habitat destruction. They have become extinct in Saudi Arabia; the North African subspecies is endangered. So perhaps their move into farming is a shrewd one; in the next century their captive population will probably outnumber the wild one. Once again they seem set to beat the evolutionary odds which are stacked against them.

Even in captivity, in Britain at least, farmed ostriches have escaped battery farming. They are the only farm animal covered by the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. Any one who keeps them has to have a licence granted annually by the local council, which sets conditions for how they are kept.

Three years ago Dr Bertram was commissioned by the RSPCA to draw up ostrich farming standards. He stipulated that they should have access to growing vegetation outdoors, and there should be no more than 15 birds per acre. Councils will not usually grant a licence unless these standards are met. Clever bird to have got such comfortable quarters.

'Tony Blair – he seems a sensible guy'

America gave the Labour leader a welcome worthy of a PM, says Rupert Cornwell

"He looks so young," more than one distinguished guest wonders over dinner at the British Ambassador's residence on Thursday, in honour of the visiting Tony Blair. But what do youth and inexperience matter on a night like this?

After a savage winter, spring is at last to be savoured in the capital of the free world. No less intoxicating proceedings are briefly interrupted to allow the evening's main attraction to give a first reaction to his latest triumph, victory in the Staffordshire South East by-election. Not only is the man a winner, but many of America's mighty can now see it for themselves. God surely has been doing the scheduling for Tony Blair this week. And even the politically neutral Englishman in Washington may be forgiven for saying, "Not before me."

If truth be told, the Britain that now adorns America's TV screens and newspapers is a rather run-down little theme-park, full of strange, colourful but ultimately inconsequential events. Northern Ireland, in which the Clinton Administration has deeply involved itself, is of course the exception. Otherwise, our recent contributions to the omnious news cycles of the US mass media have been mostly tacky, bizarre and tragic – the continuing misadventures of the House of Windsor, mad cows and the massacre at Dunblane.

All that and a meeting at the White House with the President. Already a conventional wisdom appears to be geling: "Tony Blair – he seems a sensible guy." America, in other words, is being reassured: this is a man you can go tiger shooting with. All in all, a fair day's work for Jonathan Powell, Mr Blair's chief of staff and a key planner of the trip, as he cashed in the contacts he had built up during his previous incarnation as a political counsellor at the embassy here.

But the meetings that mattered most here were those of which we heard least. In New York, the financier George Soros, forever remembered as slayer of sterling on Black Wednesday (16 September 1992), bestowed a public blessing of the foreign exchange markets upon Mr Blair, declaring that a Labour victory "would not cause a scare among international investors".

Not a word, though, has filtered out of the meetings with Robert Rubin, the Federal Reserve chairman, and Alan Greenspan, the Treasury Secretary, keepers of America's purse, whose trust in a Labour government will be no less important than that of Mr Clinton with whom Mr Blair is so often compared. They too were perhaps startled by his youth – but impressed far more by his insistence that Labour is no longer the tax-and-spend party of old. For that reason, above all, a prime minister-in-waiting has been treated this week almost as a prime minister in office.



A captive ostrich will swallow nails and glass to help it to digest its food. Photograph: Ian Derry

A roséif open a restaurant in Paris?

Sir Terence Conran might teach the French a thing or two about dining out, says Jonathan Glancey

When it comes to the art of eating Nineties-style, no man, woman or child is an island. We have come to eat an atlas of food for breakfast, dinner, lunch and tea. In me and the same restaurant, modern cuisine, stuck to food trawled from the world's oceans and cooked in styles adopted from as far afield as Yucatan and Yakutsk. All's fair, it would appear, in the war to win the contemporary appetite.

The idea, then, that Sir Terence Conran, gourmet man of taste and, above all, francophile, might open a restaurant in Paris is surely an innocuous one. Not so, if you happen to be the patron of a Parisian restaurant. Sir Terence has recently been sniffing out potential sites, though he is in no great hurry and says he is more likely to open a restaurant in Manhattan before Paris.

Even so, garlic-tainted bile has been rising in the throats of potential Parisian evils as news of Sir Terence's search has seeped through the world of grande cuisine.

In due St-Germain-des-Prés, in the heart of Paris, the manager of a popular brasserie says he is pessimistic about the idea. "The Conran style of restaurants, where the food is a mix of ingredients and flavours from around the world, is something," he hisses, "that might be in fashion at the moment; however, in my opinion, if it is well-planned and organised, a Conran restaurant may last six months or even a year."

"I'm not sure," he continues as waltz and shimmer by, "that the Conran idea will go down well. It does not have a strong enough theme; the principle of mixing different styles of food is not a French one. In any case, there is such a huge choice of different cuisines in Paris that I really cannot see a gap in the market." Well, what did you expect him to say?

Sir Terence, a man for whom Paris has been food and drink for 40 years, is used to the restaurant establishment



Tasteful: Quaglino's, Sir Terence Conran's updated version of a Parisian brasserie. Photograph: David Rose

saying his latest venture will fail. Folly, said the experts, to buy Michelin House, in which today you will find Bibendum, one of the choicest restaurants in London. Folly, too, they crowded, to reopen Quaglino's, the zooty, old society restaurant in London's St James's. Yet, this updated variation on the theme of a voluminous Parisian brasserie is packed to its gunwales day in, day out. Daft, they said, to open a grand, French-style restaurant in the shadow of Tower Bridge. Yet Pont de la Tour has been a glittering success.

Mezzo, Sir Terence's cavernous, late-night Soho "gastronomie", opened last year and was clearly doomed to failure. It would spoil Soho. It hasn't. Instead, Mezzo has brought increased and hungry trade to the area, unable to cope with the bridge-and-tunnel

hordes who bear down on its highly wrought interiors on weekends. It seems unlikely, after these experiences, that rivals will say the same about his up-and-coming eateries in Chelsea (a conversion of the old Bluebird garage, King's Road) and the City of London (an oyster-bar restaurant, based on the one that has delighted generations of New Yorkers at Grand Central station in the old Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street station).

Can the same Conran magic be exported to proud, chauvinistic and defensive culinary Paris? "Oh, I think so," says Sir Terence confidently. "Paris has some wonderful restaurants, but many of the best are living in the past. If you want to see the future, I'd tell any Parisian to come to London."

"I'd love to have a go at a truly mod-

ern restaurant in Paris. I'm not interested in aiming for the very top of the market – Michelin three-star territory – because there you'll find that very superior type of restaurant the French do best," he says. "I don't think they're much fun, even if the food is exquisite, of its sort. And the food is still too often for my taste anyway, over-decorated and over-sauced. They're also far too haughty. They make me feel nervous, which is silly if I'm being asked to pay £100 a head to eat in them."

"No, I think eating out should be fun. I also like the current English idea of chefs being allowed to experiment day to day. In the grandest Parisian restaurants, tradition tends to rule the roost."

While Parisians are able to indulge in a very sort of food, they tend to eat these in themed or "ethnic" restaurants. They do not expect to find

dishes invented on brasseries fronting Bondi Beach to be served in La Tour d'Argent (Henry IV came here for the heron paté in the 16th century) or Alain Senderen's wood-panelled Lucas-Carton, place de la Madeleine.

If they want Vietnamese, they will eat in the city's popular Vietnamese restaurants, and if they want couscous, they will plump for perennially popular Moroccan restaurants. In recent years Tex-Mex food (call that cooking?) has made heavy inroads into the Parisian gullet, but this is consumed solely in kitsch Tex-Mex hangouts.

The barn-like old brasseries – Bofinger, Lipp, Flo, Chartier, La Coupole – that have so influenced Sir Terence continue to dish out reliable, but not especially wonderful, food in gloriously atmospheric surroundings (old ladies spoon-feeding poodles, that sort of thing), but few Parisian restaurants offer the eclectic menus we have come to expect in London.

"I love Paris," says Sir Terence, "but I don't think Parisian restaurateurs can afford to be too smug. After all, what can you say about a city that has seen the rapid spread of a chain of fast food joints called Flunch? And, if Parisians are not tucking into 'flunch', they have their noses in a polystyrene container hot from the city's favourite restaurant, McDonald's."

"If I want to eat in a very grand old restaurant in the grand French tradition, of course, I'll head for Paris. But, that's something I don't want to do all that often. And, I don't think all that many Parisians want to, either. The restaurant world is changing, and I think, very much for the better. Paris shouldn't want to be a museum of haute cuisine, and I don't think, whatever anyone says, it will allow itself to be."

Which means that when Sir Terence Conran opens his first French restaurant, it will be less of a case of sending duck à l'orange to Paris and more a matter of offering Parisians a taste of duck au Conran.

Save the Children Right now, Children are dying in Liberia

The fighting in Liberia has escalated dramatically. Children have been forced to flee their homes and villages, dodging bullets and mortar fire. There is no embassy for them to run to. Many children have received horrific injuries and lost one or both parents. Thousands of children face possible death.

As little as £10 will help provide food, medical supplies and care for those in the most urgent need. We can help the children, but only if we act now and only with your help.

Please send a donation today and help us care for children.

Post the coupon below or call our credit card hotline on 0171-701 0894.

Save the Children Fund, FREEPOST, London SE5 8BR.

Your £10 could help save a child's life

Yes, I want to help Save the Children. Please accept my gift of:

£30 £15 £10 Other £ _____

Name Mr/Mrs/Ms _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

I enclose my: Cash Postal Order Cheque CAVD

Or charge my: Access AmEx Visa Diners CAF Card

Account No. _____

Signature _____

Card Expiry Date _____

Return to: Dept. 6050155
Save the Children
FREEPOST

Registered Charity No. 213890 London SE5 8BR



unit trusts

h from Tyre
West
fears
arm to
peace
process

THE INDEPENDENT • Saturday 13 April 1996 •

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

DTI probes leak of go-ahead for £4bn power bids

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday launched an inquiry into the leaking of a Monopolies and Mergers Commission report recommending that electricity company takeovers worth more than £5bn be allowed to proceed.

The Stock Exchange is believed to have contacted both the DTI and the MMC to ascertain who has had access to information from the report on National Power's proposed takeover of Southern Electricity and that of PowerGen for Midlands Electricity.

The Exchange, which declined to comment, is also expected to voice its concerns to the Takeover Panel following massive surges in share prices in the electricity sector.

The leak caused acute embarrassment in Whitehall and prompted a swift attack by the Labour Party. The MMC document, which appears to give the go-ahead to both takeovers with only minor conditions attached, was submitted two

weeks ago to Ian Lang, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry – due back on Monday after a trade mission to Japan.

Mr Lang, who is expected to accept the MMC's advice, was not planning to publish the report at least another week.

John Battle, shadow energy minister, said the event "throws into question the integrity of the relationship between the Secretary of State and the MMC".

He added: "The contents are so market price-sensitive that energy companies' shares are changing hands before the Secretary of State makes a decision on the findings of the report. This is an incredibly dangerous precedent that casts competition policy aside."

The bids by National Power and PowerGen are controversial as they would in effect recreate the vertically integrated structure of the sector which was dismantled before the industry was privatised.

However, Mr Lang had already set a precedent last year by clearing the takeover of Manweb, an electricity distribution and supply company in the North-west, by Scottish Power.

The MMC recommendation to clear the National Power and PowerGen bids will also be seen as a blow to the regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild, who is against vertical integration. A spokeswoman for the watchdog said that they could not comment on an unpublished report.

The DTI said: "The position remains that no decision has been taken." The Secretary of State must accept an unequivocal MMC approval for a merger. But the DTI said that he could block it if the Commission suggested that a merger might in some way be against the public interest. Mr Lang might also decide to give the proposed merger the go-ahead but to impose conditions of his own.

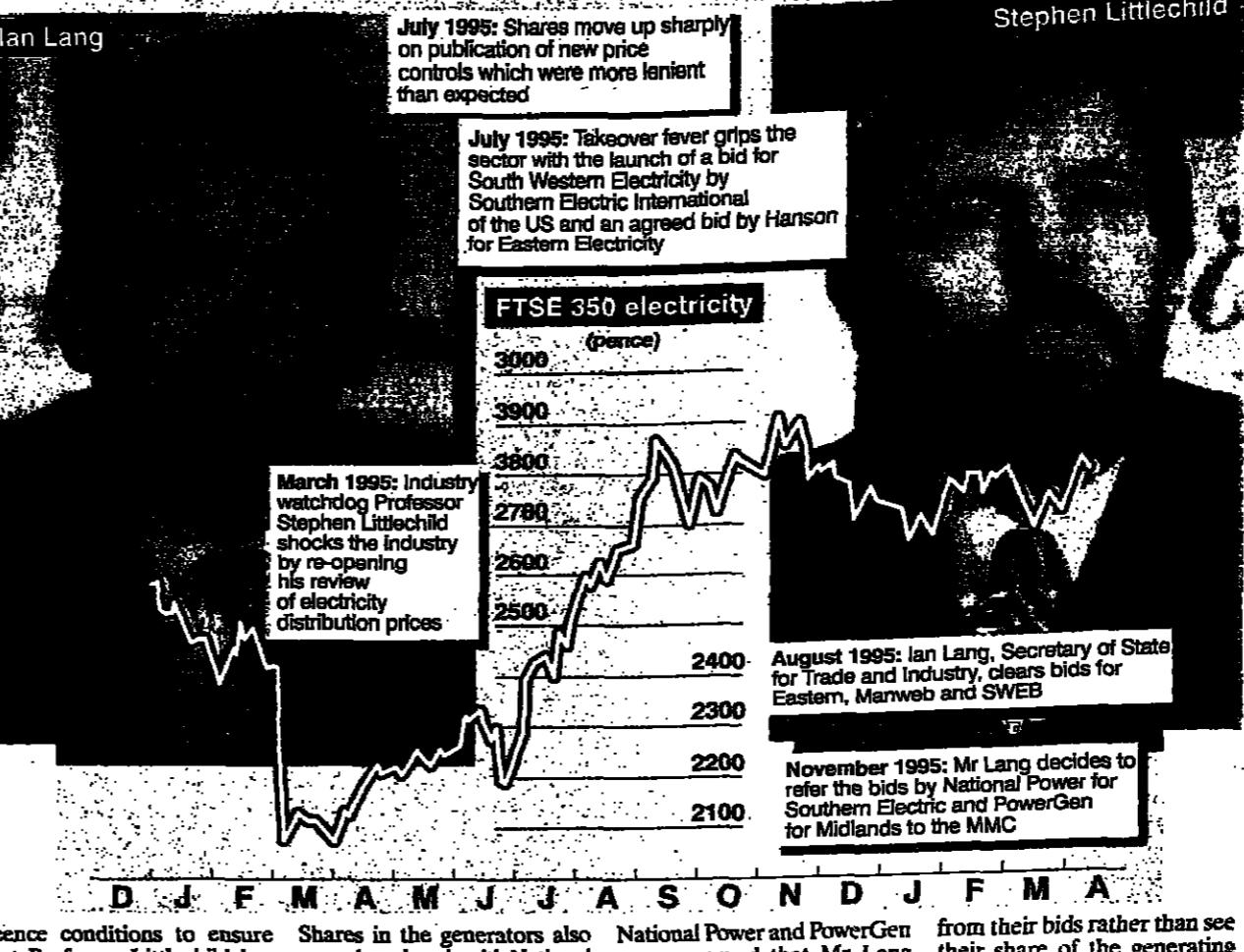
The MMC is thought to have put forward conditions for the bids including the disposal of any generating plants owned by Southern and Midlands.

National Power and PowerGen are also expected to be forced to ring-fence contracts between the companies they are buying and other generators.

A further constraint would be changes to the companies'

licensing conditions to ensure that Professor Littlechild has access to information needed to regulate effectively.

Shares in Southern Electric surged by 21p to 893p on anticipation of a renewed bid by National Power while those in Midlands rose by 7p to 405p.



National Power and PowerGen are concerned that Mr Lang might impose further power plant disposals in addition to substantial plant sales already being forced on the companies by Professor Littlechild.

City analysts believe that the generators could walk away from their bids rather than sell their share of the generating market shrink further.

Separately, it emerged that Prudential has a 4.9 per cent stake in Yorkshire Electricity, which has been at the centre of bid speculation in recent weeks.

Comment, page 21

Deutsche Telekom move on C&W confuses City

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

The possible £35bn merger between BT and Cable & Wireless was thrown into confusion yesterday following reports that Deutsche Telekom, Germany's state telecommunications company, has made unofficial contact with C&W.

The German group moved to quash speculation that it plans to bid, saying that it is looking at a variety of ways of expanding its European interests.

Deutsche Telekom's finance director, Joachim Kroske, said that, while he did not rule out a bid for C&W, "I do not think a takeover of C&W by Telekom is necessarily the one that will happen. There are other possibilities."

His comments fuelled speculation that Deutsche is seriously considering the acquisition of Mercury Communications, C&W's UK arm.

Mercury is BT's big rival in the provision of telephony service in Britain and would have to be divested if the merger goes ahead. BT is thought to view Deutsche as one of the preferred

bidders for Mercury. Other would-be suitors are said to include AT&T of the US, Italy's Stet, and a consortium of US-controlled cable companies.

City analysts believe that Deutsche has earmarked the UK as a priority but that the group would not bid alone.

Deutsche has tailor-made partners in the form of France Telecom and Sprint of the US, which are already its allies in the Global One organisation.

Shares in C&W rose 9p to 535p amidst conflicting rumours over potential suitors. Neither BT nor Cable, which have confirmed they are in talks that could lead to a merger, was willing to comment.

At the same time the Chinese government appeared to hint for the first time that it is concerned about an effective takeover of C&W, which is the majority shareholder in Hongkong Telecom.

Without approval by the Chinese authorities, any planned merger between the UK groups would be still-born as Hongkong Telecom is a key motive in BT's desire to acquire the rival group.

Anglo-American wins right to buy Bock's £300m Lonrho stake

MICHAEL HARRISON

The South African mining giant Anglo-American yesterday moved a step closer to taking control of Lonrho's mining interests after being granted the right to buy chief executive Dieter Bock's £300m stake in the group.

This would lift Anglo's holding in Lonrho to just under 30 per cent and provide the springboard for it to take charge of the group's platinum, gold and coal interests when the demerger of Lonrho's mining interests from its trading and hotel businesses takes place this summer.

Anglo, which together with its associates now owns 10 per cent of Lonrho, already had the option to buy Mr Bock's 18.4 per cent stake if he chose to sell.

Under the put and call deal agreed yesterday, Anglo has the right to buy Mr Bock's 143.5 million shares at 220p while he can force a sale at 180p.

The agreement is due to be exercised at the point of demerger. Anglo will buy Mr Bock's stake in the mining operations and tender its stake in

the non-mining businesses in the subsequent flotation.

Mr Bock will use the proceeds from Anglo to acquire a 25 per cent stake in the quoted non-mining company which will own Lonrho's trading and hotel operations and will inherit the bulk of Lonrho's £430m debt.

Oliver Baring of SBC

Warburg, which brokered the deal on behalf of Anglo, said: "I don't think Anglo is in bid mode but this puts them in a strong position where they can do all sorts of things."

A full takeover of Lonrho's mining operations could cause problems with competition authorities because it would in-

crease Anglo's dominance of the platinum market, where it is the world's biggest producer.

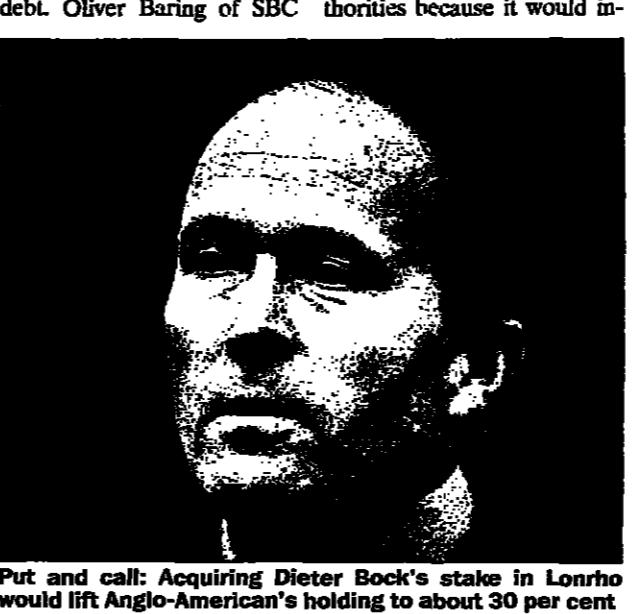
But what interests Anglo more is Lonrho's 43 per cent shareholding in the Ghana-based gold producer Asanti and its Duiker coal mining interests.

Announcing the agreement yesterday, Lonrho said it had decided that a closer partnership was necessary with Anglo to facilitate the separation of its mining and non-mining businesses.

Anglo meanwhile said it would co-operate with Lonrho to develop its gold and coal interests in Africa. A senior Anglo technical director has also been appointed to the Lonrho board.

"This allows people to get to know each other ... to go forward together in the demerger," Anglo spokesman Michael Spicer said.

The put and call arrangement will remain in place until 13 September, 1997. It values Mr Bock's stake at between £260m and £315m compared with a value at last night's 207.5p closing price of £297m.



Put and call: Acquiring Dieter Bock's stake in Lonrho would lift Anglo-American's holding to about 30 per cent

Sega extends price war with Sony

NIGEL COPE

Sega is hoping to close the gap on its arch-rival Sony in the cut-throat computer games market by continuing a price-cutting war it claims has seen sales of its Sega Saturn consoles double in the last few weeks.

Sega cut the price of the Saturn by £50 to £249 at the beginning of this month, saying the promotion would last three weeks. However, the success of the campaign is tempting the company to continue the discount for as long as it takes to wrest the initiative from Sony's PlayStation, which is continuing to outsell the Saturn, according to new figures released yesterday. Sega declined to confirm the decision yesterday.

The PlayStation is priced at £295 and Sony says it has no

plans to cut the price. "It is not necessary, given the current level of demand." However, Sony may be forced to reduce its prices if it finds that Sega is clawing back market share.

Another possibility is that it will choose to give away free games with the consoles rather than cut the price. Both companies are on new initiatives but are expected to announce plans at the European Computer Trade show which starts at London's Olympia on Sunday. The tit-for-tat sniping is part of an increasingly bitter battle that has seen both companies engage in a marketing frenzy.

The stakes are huge in the computer games market, which is worth around £2bn a year world-wide. Figures released yesterday by Sony claim that its

PlayStation console has sold more than 3.7 million units worldwide compared with Sega Saturn's figure of 3.5m.

European sales have topped 700,000 since its launch in September last year, including 200,000 in the UK. Sony claims world-wide revenues for the PlayStation have passed \$2bn and that it is a more successful launch than the Sony Walkman.

Sony had already claimed victory in the Christmas battle when it said it had sold 35,000 units in December against Saturn's 25,000. Sega had been spending less on promoting its new launch while Sony had earmarked £20m to push the PlayStation. Both companies tend to dispute each other's figures as a matter of course.

The fierce battle for the hearts and pocket money of the

Inflation fears recede in US

DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

Further evidence of a revival in the American economy, with no sign yet of higher inflation, helped US financial markets bounce back yesterday.

New figures showed retail sales barely rose in March but this was entirely because of huge upward revisions to February's sales figures.

The market reaction to the buoyant retail sales was more surprising in the light of Wall Street's recent dives on the slightest concern about future inflationary pressure.

A drop in the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index between March and April contributed to yesterday's calm. The index fell to 90.8 from 93.7 last month.

March's jump in food prices was the highest for more than a year. Bad weather has driven up grain and vegetable prices. A Florida freeze hit tomatoes, storm affected lettuce crops in the South West and lack of rain in the Mid-West means stocks of corn and wheat have fallen perilously low.

Similarly, the harsh winter has depleted oil stocks and sent prices to their highest level since the gulf war.

The general level of food prices paid by consumers increased 0.6 per cent during March, with fresh vegetables up 6.84 per cent from 6.92 per cent.

a dramatic 10 per cent during the month. Energy costs climbed 1.4 per cent.

"People have taken a related view of these increases on the basis that they will be short-lived," said Mark Cliffe, an economist at securities firm HSBC Markets.

A Labor Department economist, Patrick Jackman, said: "I don't think it will get out of hand."

There were declines in some other prices, notably a 1.9 per cent drop in airline fares.

The market reaction to the buoyant retail sales was more surprising in the light of Wall Street's recent dives on the slightest concern about future inflationary pressure.

A drop in the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index between March and April contributed to yesterday's calm. The index fell to 90.8 from 93.7 last month.

March's jump in food prices was the highest for more than a year. Bad weather has driven up grain and vegetable prices. A Florida freeze hit tomatoes, storm affected lettuce crops in the South West and lack of rain in the Mid-West means stocks of corn and wheat have fallen perilously low.

Similarly, the harsh winter has depleted oil stocks and sent prices to their highest level since the gulf war.

The general level of food prices paid by consumers increased 0.6 per cent during March, with fresh vegetables up 6.84 per cent from 6.92 per cent.



Frightening the opposition: One of the games from Sega which has set its sights on Sony's market lead

STOCK MARKETS					
FTSE 100			Dow Jones*		
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low
FTSE 100	3756.80	+22.80	+0.6	3781.30	3639.50
FTSE 250	4408.00	+17.50	+0.4	4408.00	4015.30
FTSE 350	1897.90	+10.50	+0.6	1897.90	1816.80
FT Small Cap	2123.98	+8.08	+0.3	2123.98	1954.05
FT All Share	1876.50	+10.05	+0.5	1876.50	1791.95
New York	5808.74	+21.57	+0.4	5869.74	3832.08
Tokyo	2160.47	-33.96	-0.2	2179.70	1973.40
Hong Kong	10849.80	-12.77	-0.4	11594.99	10073.39
Frankfurt	2511.78	+2.07	+0.1	2530.02	2233.88

Source: FT Information



INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling*			UK medium gilt*		
Period	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	Year Ago	Long Bond (%)

Killer
used
skills
arnt in
battoir



COMMENT

The two generators will not be allowed to abuse their market positions in the south and east of the country and they would be crazy to do so'

The fact that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission has approved the takeovers of Southern Electric and Midlands Electricity by National Power and PowerGen is no surprise. That much was pretty well known before yesterday. The fact that it has chosen to wave the deal through with only very limited conditions is more of a surprise.

But neither this nor the synthetic rage of Labour should deter the Trade Secretary Ian Lang from doing the correct thing and going along with the advice of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The MMC concluded that whilst the mergers might operate against the public interest in some respects these were not sufficiently serious to warrant prohibition and could in any case be overcome with binding undertakings.

The one dissenting voice on the MMC panel was that of Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's director of policy and planning, who submitted a minority report arguing that if the mergers were allowed it would mean higher prices and less competition.

This is rich coming from an employee of an organisation that does not have to compete for its income and which also enjoys what in MMC parlance would be called a "scale monopoly" in broadcasting.

But let us pass over that and consider the facts. The principal objection to the two mergers is that they would result in an unacceptable degree of vertical integration,

creating two large groups that generate, distribute and supply electricity - the structure that existed before the industry was broken up on privatisation in 1990.

But the Government conceded the principle of vertical integration when it allowed the takeover of Manweb by Scottish Power to go ahead.

The boundaries have been further blurred by the prospect of Eastern Electricity, which is owned by Hanson, taking over power stations from National Power and PowerGen, which would make it the fourth-biggest generator in the country.

It has also been argued that allowing the deals would give National Power and PowerGen captive regional markets for their electricity, driving choice down and prices up, and increase their ability to rig prices in the electricity pool, the wholesale market for England and Wales.

But the two generators will not be allowed to abuse their market positions in the south and east of the country by the regulator of the industry, Professor Stephen Littlechild, and they would be crazy to do so since we are now less than two years away from the point when the country's 22 million domestic consumers will be able to dispense with their local supplier and shop around.

The undue influence they could exert in the pool will need careful watching but this is steadily being eroded by the arrival of competitors offering electricity from "mid-

merit" generating plants - those power stations which generally set the overall pool price.

National Power and PowerGen have almost certainly overstated the efficiency gains they can make from combining generation with distribution and supply and in any event what cost savings they could squeeze out would go to shareholders first and customers second.

But the overriding issue which Mr Lang has to address is what kind of structure he wants for the electricity industry as the domestic market prepares for liberalisation - a dozen regional electricity companies happy to sit on their local monopolies, or a smaller group of well-capitalised integrated players who will bring more competition into electricity supply.

Vertical integration is not always the friend of the consumer but the manner in which the electricity industry was broken up in 1990 has not been an unalloyed success. This time around the Government has the chance to rectify that while putting in place the safeguards that will ensure the customer benefits.

A chance Airbus must not squander

It is hard not to smile at the suggestion that McDonnell Douglas is planning a 400-seater jet to compete with the Boeing

747. Surely this can't be the same company that was obliged to take out newspaper advertisements last year reassuring the world that it was not about to exit from civil aircraft production.

Yes it can, and no it does not end there for the newly-appointed president of the Douglas Aircraft Corporation, Michael Sears, promises that once its 400-seater is in the air it will turn its attention to building a super jumbo.

Now the scent of aviation fuel in the nostrils can do strange things to the sanest of executives so perhaps we should not dismiss these ideas out of hand.

But it is about as hard to conceive of McDonnell Douglas finding the \$15bn it would take to build a super jumbo as it is to imagine it merging with Boeing - another of the ideas that did the rounds last year.

What is not in dispute, however, is that McDonnell Douglas, number three in the world's jet building league, has turned the corner from basket case to serious contender.

That makes it all the more imperative that the latest proposal to overhaul Airbus Industrie and turn it into a public limited company is not allowed to run out of steam.

The European aircraft consortium has made large strides in the last five years much to the benefit of British Aerospace and its three other industrial partners in France, Germany and Spain.

Indeed Airbus, once the whipping boy for everything that went wrong in BAe's commercial aircraft division, is now the reason that it is still in the air.

But the uniquely French way that Airbus is structured as a Groupement d'Intérêt Economique militates against efficiency and means that production is carved up, not according to who is most competitive but what shareholdings each partner has.

Airbus began sub-contracting out its work share years ago and now at last the other partners are moving in its direction. The Germans have warned they will not fund new Airbus models unless it reconstitutes itself. More importantly, the French, for long the main stumbling block to change, have agreed that Airbus needs to change shape even if it means Aerospatiale losing work-share.

Edward Reuter, the former Daimler-Benz chairman, is due to report to the Airbus supervisory board in May on what structure it should adopt.

We have been here before. Six years ago Lord Sterling produced a "wise men's" report for the four government's recommending a complete overhaul of Airbus. Nothing happened.

On this occasion, however, there is consensus for the first time among the partners about what needs to be done. It is essential that the chance for change is not squandered.

Clark shoes set to miss float deadline

NIGEL COPE

C&J Clark, the privately owned shoe company, is facing a showdown with the group's family shareholders after admitting that it may miss the deadline which commits the company to a stock market listing by 1998.

Unveiling a 26 per cent increase in profits to £25m yesterday, Clark's chairman Roger Pedder conceded a delay was possible though the commitment remained unchanged. "We said the company had to be in the right shape and the market had to be right. There is no change to that aim, we are just undecided on the actual date. It might take a little longer. The market is tough out there."

If Clark's does fail to meet the deadline it would need special approval from the family shareholders who still own 70 per cent of the shares. The family agreed to reject a £184m takeover bid from Berisford three years ago on condition that the company went public within five years. The agreement was only

reached after family in-fighting that culminated in an emergency meeting at the group's headquarters in Street, Somerset.

Mr Pedder has since established a shareholder council and hopes to secure any extension to the float deadline without family rows or a formal meeting. "I think it would now be worked out within the shareholder body," Mr Pedder said.

Clark's has been struggling to re-structure itself in the face of difficult and over-supplied UK footwear market.

The company has been cutting costs under its new chief executive, Tim Parker, who was recruited from Kenwood earlier this year. Further cuts are likely with some job losses expected. No store closures are planned.

A trial children's store format will start in May and a new international store will be tested in the United States later this year.

Clark's pre-tax profits increased by 26 per cent to £24.8m last year on sales up 5 per cent to £721m. Profits were boosted by income from prop-

erty disposal which will not recur.

Underlying profits from the core shoe operations were down sharply due to a tough market and serious disruption within UK manufacturing. US profits collapsed from £3.6m in 1994 to just £690,000 last year.

There have been a number of senior management changes. Malcolm Cotton, the former managing director who left last year, received £460,000 compensation for loss of office as well as a fee for consultancy work undertaken during 1995.

Two other directors, John Clothier and Patrick Farmer made a combined total of £700,000 from the exercise of share options before leaving the company. These issues are likely to increase tension with the family shareholders.

On current trading, Mr Pedder said the new year had started with sales up by 2.1 per cent on the same period in 1995. But some factories are short of work, which could mean penalties for producing below capacity.



Showdown: Roger Pedder, chairman, says the commitment to a listing is unchanged

Big shareholders back £23m Newspaper Publishing cash call

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Large shareholders in Newspaper Publishing, publisher of the *Independent* and *Independent on Sunday*, yesterday backed a £23m rights issue.

Mirror Group, owner of the *Daily Mirror* and *Daily Record*, and Dr Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers, have

agreed to support a rights issue by the group which will see their stakes increased to 46.4 per cent and each the Spanish group Promotora de Informaciones (Prisa) diluted to 6.7 per cent.

The two main shareholders will see their stakes raised from around 43 per cent each now. Prisa, publishers of *La Republica*, which currently holds just

under 9 per cent of Newspaper Publishing, has indicated that it will not take up its rights.

Part of the new equity will replace £14m of existing loans made to Newspaper Publishing by Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers, and the other £9m is new money, to be invested in the group's ongoing businesses.

They are taking up their rights on a one-for-one basis at 31p a share. The rights issue will not be underwritten.

Newspaper Publishing cut its losses to £1.9m in the year to December from £50.8m in the previous 15-month period. Liam Healy, the group's chairman and chief executive of Independent Newspapers, said

cost reductions, other than newsprint, and improving revenues had significantly reduced the rate of losses.

"Since the refinancing of the company in May-June 1995, the quality newspaper market in the UK has remained very competitive. However, there has been some relaxation of the aggressive cover pricing policies

seen last year which has been accompanied by an improvement in the company's circulation revenues."

Cover price increases in July and January "do not appear to have significantly affected the circulation of the *Independent*," he said. Year-on-year circulation figures for January remained largely unchanged.

IN BRIEF

Lloyd's names who are suing for damages and also those who have paid all their debts are to receive a better deal following improvements in the market's £2.8bn rescue package. This follows Lloyd's first official confirmation yesterday that the reserving requirements for Equitas, the reinsurance vehicle central to the rescue, are less than the £1.9bn first estimated. The cut in the reserving requirements for Equitas relieves names of some of their financial burden, but Lloyd's said it was too early to say big the reduction was. With additional contributions from agents and brokers, Lloyd's is trying to raise the value of the rescue package to as much as £3.2bn.

John Coleman, who was appointed chief executive of House of Fraser on Thursday, was the highest paid director at Ladbrokes last year with total emoluments, including compensation for loss of office, more than doubling to £590,000. Mr Coleman also had rights on 350,000 options on Ladbrokes shares extended to 12 September this year. According to Ladbrokes' annual report Mr Coleman received £200,000 for his contribution to the sale of Texan Homecare by Ladbrokes last year, and £100,000 for loss of office.

Gammon Construction, the Hong Kong based construction company owned jointly by Trafalgar House and Jardine Pacific, is part of a consortium which yesterday won a £13.2m "turnkey" contract to build a Light Rapid Transit system for Singapore. The contract has been awarded by Singapore's Land Transport Authority and the other consortium members are Kepel Integrated Engineering and ABB Daimler-Benz Transpor-

Tion.

Ford Motor will boost its stake in Japan's Mazda Motor Corporation from a quarter to a one-third share in a deal that Mazda hopes will gear it up to become the world's top automotive group. The move follows an existing alliance between the world's Number Two carmaker and Japan's fifth biggest automobile manufacturer, and analysts said it could herald more such strategic link-ups between U.S. and Japanese firms. Ford stressed it did not envisage big job cuts at Mazda. The Hiroshima-based company made losses for the last two business years and has forecast nil net profits for the year ended March 31 1996 which have yet to be announced. Japan's biggest car maker Toyota said similar link-ups could happen in other industries as Japanese firms internationalise.

SBC Warburg has bought from the Treasury 921,871 cumulative redeemable preference shares in Hyder, the company formed recently from the merger of Swalec and Welsh Water. The competitive auction was organised by NM Rothschild. SBC Warburg said yesterday that the shares had been purchased "for on-going and yesterday that the shares had been purchased in the ordinary course of market

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

The other problem for investors in the exploration sector is that, as our table shows, share prices have nearly all caught up with net asset values.

After a disappointing five years, the past 12 months or so have been marked by new signs of life in the sector.

Bid activity lit up share prices last year and observers believe the cycle has not ended. Biggish foreign groups such as Statoil and Talisman, which snapped up Aran and Gail, showed there is a continuing interest in acquiring UK acreage. And with the majors generating plenty of cash, there is no shortage of resources to back acquisitions. But even on fundamental grounds, the explorers have been increasing their own attractions. Lasmo

sley, the respected former finance director of Enterprise Oil, has taken the reins. The shares have responded to efforts by the new team to give more focus to the rather sprawling group spun out of Trafalgar House. But there could be more to come if current prospects live up to expectations.

The results of a third appraisal well on the potentially big Baya discovery in the Timor Sea are expected within the next few days. Estimates suggest the gas and condensate field could contain 1 billion barrels of oil equivalent.

Another group analysis is warning to Caen Energy, whose shares soared earlier this year on hopes for an interesting gas discovery in Bangladesh. The preliminary results announcement on Thursday is expected to bring news of an appraisal well being completed on the Sangai field. If that brings further evidence of a substantial gas find, there could be further significant upside potential in the shares. Apart from the massive latent market of 110 million people in Bangladesh, there is also the prospect of tapping into the nearby Indian market. Such considerations could attract the attention of predators like Occidental or British Gas, keen to establish a presence there.

More speculatively, shares in British Borneo Petroleum have leapt this year, fired by optimism surrounding its deal to develop Shell's Morpeth field in the Gulf of Mexico.

Much of this is "blue sky" potential, however, as the SeaStar tension leg production platform to be used is untried as yet and the field would be marginal using traditional methods.

So after the recent rerating, much of the exploration sector has caught up with events. Given that and the rather cloudy outlook for oil prices this year, stocks should not generally be chased higher. Even so, careful selection by investors could still reap rewards.

Takeover Panel raps BET

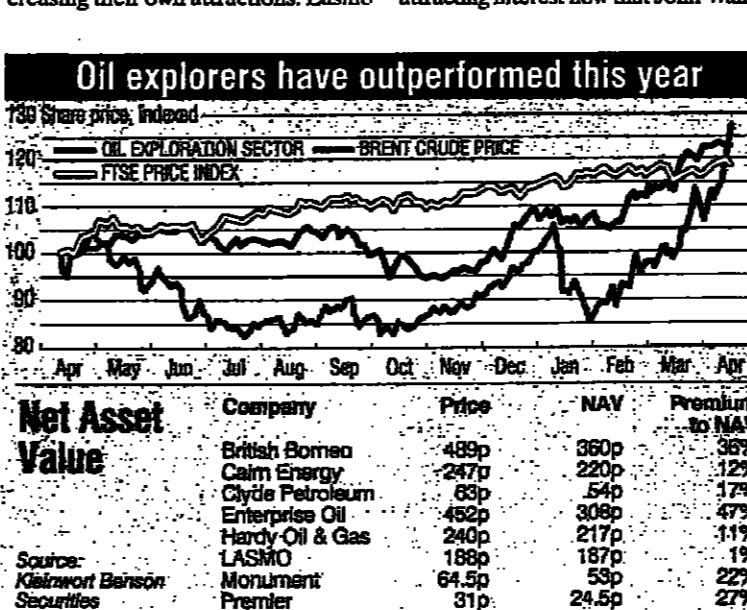
MAGNUS GRIMOND

The Takeover Panel yesterday publicly rapped BET for misleading investors in a statement rejecting the higher bid for the group announced by Rentokil on Thursday. Indicating the seriousness with which it viewed the matter, the City watchdog issued a rare public reprimand criticising BET for not making a valid comparison between its share price and the value of the new offer.

The announcement from BET on Thursday valued Rentokil's revised offer at 209.8p a share, excluding a promised dividend of 4p, and claimed that it represented an increase of just 1.1 percent over the previous night's closing price. The Panel executive said it was "not satisfied that this was a valid comparison to have made because an offer value ex the BET dividend was compared with a BET share price which was cum all future dividends." BET has already forecast a final dividend of 3.7p for last year, which is deemed to be included in its share price.

Had the comparison been made between Rentokil's increased offer and BET's share price prior to the the announcement of the new offer the increase would have been 3.01 per cent, the Panel said. It called on BET not to make further comparisons based on the value of Rentokil's increased offer excluding the BET dividend.

Oil explorers have outperformed this year



Source: Klemmert Benson Securities

market report/shares

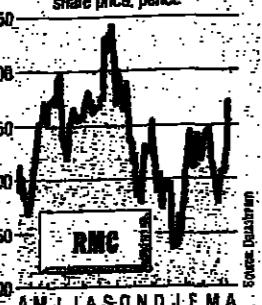
DATA BANK
FTSE 100
 3766.8 +22.6

FTSE 250
 4408.0 +17.5

FTSE 350
 1897.9+10.5

SEAO VOLUME
 942.8m shares,
 33,988 bargains

Gilt's Index
 1/2

SHARE SPOTLIGHT
 share price, pence


The remaining electricity

Tory defeat concentrates market minds on takeovers

The Tory by-election disaster sent shares charging ahead.

With John Major's majority down to one and a minority Government looming, the stock market took the view that predators could be rushed into early action.

The attitude of any Labour government to a takeover feast is, at best, untested. So the need to get deals done and dusted before any election had, following the Staffordshire South result, become even more pressing.

The takeover fever was encouraged by what appeared to be a leak of Whitehall's intention to clear PowerGen's bid for Midland Electricity and National Power's offer for Southern Electric.

PGF surged 13.5p to 562.5p and NP 14p to 492p. The targets also responded with Midland up 7p at 405p and Southern 21p at 839p.

The remaining electricity

companies which still command their own destiny anticipated what is now regarded as inevitable bid action.

US power groups are favourite to strike although continental operations lurk.

Against such a background East Midlands jumped 34p to 658p; London 10p to 809p and Yorkshire 15p to 898p. Even debt laden Northern Electric rose 21p to 679p.

Water companies were also flushed into action. Speculation the proposed bids will be cleared lifted South West Water 18p to 714p.

Ladbroke was back in the frame. In brisk trading the shares edged forward 1.5p to 183.5p with a deal with Hilton Hotels Corporation of the US now the market's favourite option.

Whether such an alliance would lead to a bid is, however, unclear.

Cable & Wireless gained

9p to 535p as the Germans

expressed

interest

in

off-the

cuff

comments

at

a

Frankfurt

dinner

Joachim

Kroeske,

finance

director
 of

Deutsche

Telekom,

let
 slip
 the
 German

group
 had
 more
 than
 a
 passing

interest
 in
 Cable
 &
 Wireless

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

.

MARKET REPORT
DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter
of the year

announced in the Budget, delivered in April. There are also signs the feel-good factor is seeping into the market, prompting many consumer shares to an enjoyable session.

Building and related shares remained to the fore although RMC, the best performing blue chip with a 47p gain to 1069p, owed at least some of its embarrassment to figures due next week. Around £321m against £283.3m is expected despite the group's German interests. With the long mooted housing recovery seemingly materialising Barratt Developments, up 9p at 271p and Beazer, 12p at 201p, led housebuilders.

Kingfisher headed the retail advance with a 19p gain to 602p. Dixons was not far behind, up 13p at 483p and Next improved 15p to 553p.

Royal Bank of Scotland shaded 3p to 501p despite bullish comments from NatWest Securities. The shares have underperformed as takeover speculation has diminished and worries surfaced about the performance of the Direct Line insurance offshoot. NatWest pointed out it was downgraded for this year from 658p to 618p. But Royal Bank's premium to the sector, say NatWest, is now "very modest and, given the medium term scope for upside surprises, the shares are looking more attractive".

Matthew Clark, reflecting the Credit Lyonnais Laing support, gained a further 16.5p to 761p and M&M, the furniture stores chain, continued to bask in a Kleinwort Benson recommendation with a further 8p gain to 180p.

Micro Focus, the software house, continued to attract support, mainly American, gaining 45p to 898p.

Lorbar slipped 5.5p to 207.5p as the closer involvement with Anglo American, the South African mining giant, was judged as reducing the chance of a bid. KITZ, ferrying analysts to Portugal next week, put on 21p to 594p and the strength of the crude oil price continued to influence British Petroleum, hitting 588p, up 6.5p to 598p. Shell added 13p to 884p and Lasmo 6p to 188p.

VideoLogic, the chip maker, was little changed at 66p. Charles Stanley, the stockbroker, says the market is only beginning to appreciate the company's world leadership in multimedia chips. It expects losses to continue this year with £4.5m likely; next year there should be a £10m profit.

TAKING STOCK

Botha

W

N

V

E

C

I

O

M

S

T

A

R

H

O

L

D

F

U

G

S

P

R

E

C

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

Secretary

sport

CRICKET'S SELECTION ELECTION: By throwing headline-making names into the field, the counties have drawn the spotlight away from their own responsibilities in developing players, argues Graeme Wright

Botham or Bolus? A poll that does not matter

When it comes to elections, you have to hand it to the Americans: they make a show of it. Bands, badges and bunting-wagons, and that's only the primaries. The Test and County Cricket Board goes about its elections in a much more English way – too much secrecy and too many leaks. When Ray Illingworth defeated M J K Smith in a postal ballot in March 1994, for example, no voting figures were given. Indeed, it would have come as no surprise had waiting journalists been kept outside the Grace Gate until a Vatican-style puff of smoke emerged from the cathedral of cricket.

With the forthcoming election of selectors, of course, we've already had the smoke by way of a smoke-screen: a bonfire of vanities, so to speak. By putting up an unprecedented number of candidates, the counties have effectively – intentionally or unintentionally – clouded the most important issue. This is that England's cricketers have been poorly equipped (with the exception of sponsors' dogtags) to compete in international cricket. And Illingworth, the man who has understood this all along, is the man under attack by some of the counties.

"The players work hard enough running round the ground," he said when he was appointed chairman, "but not hard enough at the basics of cricket." Perhaps the chairman has been getting too close to home truths for the liking of some counties.

The time for getting back to basics is not a few days before a Test match, as Illingworth should have been wise enough to know with regard to Devon Malcolm in South Africa. The right time is when the players are with their counties. Indeed, getting the basics right is the counties' responsibility, and that means employing first-class coaches who understand the mental and technical demands of the modern game. The modern international game, that is: not the modern county game.

Unfortunately, when you utter words like technical and technique, people go rather glassy. On a sports programme recently, the panel was advised not to get too technical lest the listeners wouldn't understand – in which case they'd do a double turn-off. Yet technique is an important part of most sports and essential in cricket.

Last may, for example, covering a Surrey match for our Sunday paper, I remarked on Alec Stewart's uncertainty when playing on the front foot. Having had consecutive winters in the West Indies and Australia, he looked every inch a Test cricketer on the back foot, but worryingly vulnerable when bowlers drew him forward.

That weakness was still obvious during the winter in South Africa, where accurate, intelligent seam bowling always sought to exploit it.

This was something his Surrey employers should have sorted out, but the county appeared more occupied with business off the field than on it.

In today's world, however, it is personalities and "issues" that sell sports

EIGHTSOME REEL: CONTENDERS AND PRETENDERS FOR A THANKLESS TASK

Candidate	In His Own Words	The Illy Factor
Kim Barnett Age: 35. Counties: Derbyshire Specialty: Opening batsman, leg-spin bowler Nominated by: Derbyshire International experience: 4 Tests Profession: Cricketer Commitments: Full-time player Notes: Banned from test cricket after rebel South Africa tour. Nicknames: Skippy, Bern	'Forget all the trivia about pitches, how the game should be in length of time, covering etc. Let's get on with playing attractive, entertaining cricket'	Considerable potential for conflict: Illingworth has made it clear that he thinks full-time playing is probably incompatible with the job of a selector. At 35, Barnett is also the youngest candidate; an attribute Illy may regard as provocative
Brian Botham Age: 52. Counties: Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire Specialty: Opening bat, former selector Nominated by: Nottinghamshire International experience: 102 Tests (former England captain) Profession: Television TV personality Commitments: Retired civil servant Constituents: Some after-dinner speaking Notes: Believed to be one of two favoured by Ray Illingworth. Nicknames: TSB Both (the man who likes to say yes)	Unavailable for comment	Significant pluses and minuses: There are only a couple of candidates Illy really wants, and Botham, former selector, non-botherer, is one of them. However, being a favoured candidate may actually lessen his appeal with counties already unhappy with Illingworth's efforts
Ian Botham Age: 40. Counties: Somerset, Worcestershire, Durham Specialty: All-rounder Nominated by: Derbyshire, Northamptonshire International experience: 102 Tests (former England captain) Profession: Television TV personality Commitments: Daily Mirror columnist, charity work Nicknames: Beefy	'I would love to serve on the selection panel because the big challenge now is to find a team and to make it turn England into a world power again. I would have no problem working with Illy. Basically we stand for the same thing'	Limitless potential for strife...or perhaps success: In 1995 Botham described 'Raymond "Pontius Pilate" Illingworth' as 'a whinger not a motivator'. Illy who regards outspokenness as his prerogative, is unlikely to welcome another free-speaker to the team. Botham says he thinks the two can work together. He would
Chris Cowdrey Age: 36. Counties: Kent, Glamorgan Specialty: All-rounder Nominated by: Kent International experience: 6 Tests (former England captain) Profession: Owns a public speaking business called 'The Great Delivery Company'. Does PR work for Ladbrokes Commitments: Dependent on how willing and able he is to give up other roles. Likely to be able devote a lot of time.	'I'm honoured Kent should want to nominate me. I hadn't thought of standing, but I'm excited at the prospect. The thing I suppose I've got in my favour is age and time availability'	Unlikely to be a factor: Cowdrey has gone out of his way to emphasise the spare time he has to watch a lot of cricket, which would suit Illingworth; a relatively non-controversial figure which would suit him more. His 'southernness' and age may count against him
John Edrich Age: 58. County: Surrey Specialty: Opening bat Nominated by: Surrey International experience: 77 Tests Profession: Corporate entertaining Commitments: Entertaining corporately Notes: Believed to be one of two favoured by Ray Illingworth.	Unavailable for comment	Like Botham, could work both ways: Believed to be Illingworth's other choice, which may count against him with some counties. On the other hand Edrich's previous experience as a selector may give him delusions of knowledge which may rattle with the chairman of selectors
Graham Gooch Age: 42. County: Essex Specialty: Opening bat, medium-paced bowler Nominated by: Essex International experience: 113 Tests (former England captain) Profession: Cricketer Commitments: Full-time player Notes: Captain of rebel tour to South Africa 1992, banned from Test cricket for three years. Nickname: Zap, Gooch	'My heart and soul was with England when I played and was captain. Selection should represent a cross-section of people in the game'	Potential for conflict: Like Barnett, Gooch's playing commitments are unlikely to endear him to Illingworth. Nor will his friendship with Ian Botham. Then again, Gooch's reputation as a miserable man from Essex might just appeal to a miserable Yorkshireman
David Graveney Age: 43. Counties: Gloucestershire, Somerset, Durham Specialty: Left-arm spinner Nominated by: Gloucestershire International experience: None Profession: Secretary of the Professional Players Union, Current England selector Commitments: Already does the job Nicknames: Gravity, Grav	'I apologise for any distress this decision may have caused. It has always been my wish to serve the game to the best of my ability and I shall continue to do this in the future' – after he was told to pull out of the running for the chairman of selectors job by the Professional Cricketers Association, who he works for as Secretary	Virtually guaranteed to be explosive: Graveney's abortive challenge for Illy's job as chairman of selectors brought a typically barbed response from the incumbent. Despite his current status as a selector the relationship is bound to be caustic if renewed by the counties
Geoff Miller Age: 43. Counties: Derbyshire, Essex Specialty: All-rounder Nominated by: Hampshire International experience: 34 Tests Profession: After-dinner speaker, part-time cricket coach at Trent College Commitments: Not too heavy	'I feel we need to be positive about things. You can't sit by and see the English game falling down'	Difficult to predict: Miller has no history of contentious behaviour, but Illy may feel that he's better off with older, established veterans around him

There are five spaces on the panel who select the England team. The chairman (Ray Illingworth), the team captain (almost certainly Mike Atherton) and the team coach (David Lloyd) automatically qualify.

The other two positions on the panel are voted for annually. The 18 first-class counties have two votes each, as do MCC and the Minor Counties, making a total of 40 votes.

When the TCCB were asked for a job description, a spokesman said: "There isn't a job description. It's not a job as such." The position is unpaid.

There is no written list of official duties, but Ray Illingworth has recommended the following:

Selectors must watch 90 days of cricket a year. Selectors must be able to attend 10-plus necessary meetings. Selectors must not have any media work, which would clash with impartial duties of a selector.

concentrating more on his own back than, say, Stewart's front foot.

All the kerfuffle over Illingworth's countenance – likewise Mike Atherton's – is also a red herring. There's something, inherently Protestant in the seemingly down way they reduce the game to their own level, instead of raising their sights to the level of the spirit of cricket exemplified by Sri Lanka in the World Cup. It's a national characteristic.

So what about this eight-man exercise in democracy that comes to a head this week? Does it matter which two get the votes of the counties and MCC to join Illingworth, David Lloyd, the new coach, and Atherton, assuming he is captain, on the selection committee. No, not in the short term. It's not as if the selectors are spoilt for choice when picking the England team, even if they do manage the occasional baffling selection. What it might indicate, however, is how the counties view the long-term ambitions of men like Botham, Gooch and David Graveney – should we be told how the voting went?

What it might also show is just how much, or how little, the county managements know about the game, as opposed to the business of cricket. They offered some evidence of this in 1993 when, after only one season, they abandoned the 50-over format in the Sunday League. True, it was initially foolish to choose the one competition that has the full fury of a County Championship match raging either side of it. But if the counties were serious about England's prospects in the World Cup, surely one of the three limited-overs competitions could have been played under World Cup rules?

This season the Benson and Hedges Cup will be played over 50 overs. But it's a little late. The horses have long bolted and you can't see them for the smoke-screen.

Graeme Wright is a former editor of Wisden

and newspapers. By throwing such headline-making names as Ian Botham and Graham Gooch into the field for what is, in effect, a pretty irrelevant contest, the counties have cleverly drawn the spotlight away from

their own shortcomings as the providers of England's Test cricketers. Immediately, the most important issue in the media became not England's poor showing in South Africa and in the World Cup, but whether "Illy" can live with "Beefy".

The Tories should be pounding a path to the county grounds for lessons in spin-doctoring – not that spin is on the county agenda all that often.

When Illingworth was appointed chairman of selectors two years ago, high on his agenda was winning back the Ashes, something he achieved as England's captain in Australia in 1970-71. He didn't do it attractively, but he did it effectively, and no one worried whether he smiled or not. Yet if the counties have their way, England could go into next year's Ashes series in complete disarray, with Illingworth

TODAY

Football

Matches not on pools coupons: 20 unless stated

FA CUP SEMI-FINAL

Sheffield United v Arsenal

Wednesday 16 April

FA CUP FINAL

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Sunday 20 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

Wednesday 23 April

FA CUP WINNERS' LEAGUE

Sheffield United v Liverpool

sport

A strange mixture overwhelmed Fenton's face, part elation but mainly guilt, as if he really shouldn't have been doing it

Black Monday it is now known on Tyneside: Red Letter Day in certain parts of Manchester. And the sight which will stick most in the mind after Blackburn's cruel destruction of Newcastle's championship desires on Easter Monday was not Kevin Keegan, the moment the final whistle went, bravely shaking Ray Harford by the hand when what he really wanted to do was shake the linesman by the throat. Nor was it the six-year-old in the crowd, decked out in a black and white curly wig, trying to comfort his dad, trying to tell him that it didn't really matter, that football wasn't that important. And obviously failing. No, it was the look on Graham Fenton's face as he chipped his second goal over the hopeless figure of Shaka Hislop in the last minute that lingers in the memory. It was a look you don't often

see on a football pitch, though probably not one to make it into the explain-the-goal-celebration round on *'They Think It's All Over'*. A strange mixture overwhelmed his face, part elation, but mainly guilt, as if he really shouldn't have been doing it. It was the look of a naughty schoolboy.

The commentator, anxious to extract every morsel of significance from the moment, explained it all: Fenton was a Geordie, a born-and-bred Newcastle fan, his family were in the stands en masse, dozens of them decked out in black and white, not minding at all if Graham scored twice, so long as Newcastle scored three times. And then he goes and spoils it all, single-handedly killing off his heroes' hopes (or maybe not single-handedly, the Newcastle defence did their best to accommodate him).

The next day, the irony overdrive began: here was the Geordie who broke Geordie hearts. A clever news agency got hold of a picture of the young Fenton meeting Kevin Keegan at a Newcastle school of excellence back in the Eighties, which was circulated to the tabloids and run under headlines saying "the one that got away". Fenton was interviewed ("I'm not sure if I'll be welcomed back home"), his mum was interviewed ("we're still proud of him"), his dad was interviewed ("I'm not sure whether to board up the house or emigrate"). If his dog had been interviewed it would probably have been called Keegan.

It is in the nature of football that players will end up playing against the team they support. Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler were brought up Evertonians, Noel

Whelan remains such a Leeds supporter that, despite being off-loaded to Coventry, he was spotted with his mates in the crowd at his old club's Coca-Cola Cup semi-final with Birmingham. But oddly the times when professional fans inflict

mortal damage on their favourites are rare.

Indeed Fenton's uneasy reaction to his strike was reminiscent of the most famous occasion when it all went pear-shaped for a supporter: Denis Law's back-heel for City against United in the Manchester derby in April 1974, the goal that sent United down. Actually it didn't, they were as good as relegated already. What really sent them down was fielding a pitiful team that was so goal-shy their keeper Alex Stepney, with two successive penalties, was the leading scorer for much of the season. But try telling that to Dennis Law.

The goal itself was appropriately comic: Francis Lee cut the ball across from the right-hand side of the penalty area, it trickled past a couple of hopeless, prone, black-socked

legs and landed just behind Law. He did his best to avoid it, but some recalcitrant game of professionalism made him flick out a heel in its direction. The ball hit it, left Alex Stepney flat-footed and bobbed into the net. It was a moment of pure hubris. Law was only there, in the wrong colour shirt, because the manager had prematurely off-loaded him, shabbily ill-treating the great United hero by sending him into City exile. But you could tell that if revenge was on his mind, it was no consolation. Mike Doyle, City stalwart, slapped him round the face a bit and told him to snap out of it, he'd just scored a goal against the enemy, so get celebrating. But Law couldn't, so upset was he at scoring against his team, he just went off the pitch, went straight home and never kicked a ball in League football again.

Twenty-two years on, Law is constantly reminded of that moment. Whenever he goes in Manchester, people want to talk to him about it. Never mind that he scored 236 goals in his United career, it's the one he got for City everyone remembers. He's been asked about it so often, he now pretends to have erased it entirely from his memory. "You know," he says, as the anniversary approaches, "People tell me it happened, but I can't remember a thing about it. That one I got in the '63 Cup final, though..."

Graham Fenton may think he's had a bad week, but that it will all be forgotten after the weekend. What he doesn't appreciate is that in 22 years' time, someone in his home town will ask him to talk them through the two goals that sunk the Toon. Or maybe he does. And that explained the look on his face.

Jim White



ON SATURDAY

Super-12 makes supercharged start in Australia

While professionalism is threatening to cause a schism in English club rugby, Down Under it has been used as a launch-pad to increase the sport's popularity. **Greg Growden** reports from Sydney

While the move to professionalism in England has proved a troubled road with more blunders no doubt still to come, in Australia the end of the amateur era could hardly have gone more smoothly. Rugby league, with its stranglehold as the premier football code in New South Wales and Queensland, has always been Big Brother, but as union has made its bold bound into the business arena, league has ironically been pitched into disarray by a dispute over power and money.

Not quite. But there are encouraging signs that the long undermanned underling is seriously threatening rugby league.

The reason for the change is simple. The southern hemisphere administrators have in the Super-12 tournament devised a competition which has been an unqualified success, attracting record crowds, overwhelming media attention, plus the most marketable style of play – expression rather than inhibition.

The tournament could also not have been better timed, coinciding with the Australian Rugby League's unconscious attempt to self-destruct, through its highly emotive and divisive battle with Rupert Murdoch's rebel Super League organisation.

During a period where many league supporters became sick and tired of a bewildering court-room battle, which revolved

around greed and ego, the Super-12 was the ideal alternative.

While the New South Wales league premiership was placed in limbo for two weeks, the only rugby available was the Super-12. And the tournament rose to the occasion, with several outstanding matches involving NSW succeeding in convincing some fans to convert.

The standard has been irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal, Northern Transvaal, NSW and Queensland, producing intricate and beautifully thought out moves, which would do any Barbarians line-up proud. Not having as many loose-forwards crowding the defensive line helps as well.

As important has been the competition point given to any team finishing within seven points of their opponents. So no one has an excuse to give up.

The Super-12 is not yet

prompted that when the league competition eventually started in late March, attendances were down 53.4 per cent, while representative rugby crowds had increased by 45 per cent. From only 3,217 spectators who watched Australian Capital Territory play NSW in Sydney in 1994, their next encounter, held last month at the Sydney Football Stadium, attracted 20,687.

This was before a crowd of 30,147 watched the NSW-Natal Super-12 match at the Sydney Football Stadium, the biggest crowd to watch the state side

since Fiji attracted 38,000 against the Waratahs at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1952.

Away from Sydney, attendances have been as healthy. ACT reported their biggest ever crowd in Canberra when the Brumbies played Auckland, while attendances at Ballymore for Queensland have always been above the 15,000 mark.

The playing standard has also proved irresistible, bringing Test excitement to the provincial level. This has partly been brought about by the successful introduction of law changes, including enforcing the back row to stay engaged until the ball has left the scrum-base, and a bonus competition point for any team which scores four or more tries in a match.

This has prompted every team to be adventurous and test their abilities, even when matches appear lost. It has also encouraged the most vibrant of back-line play with several teams, Auckland, Natal,

sport

National plan to push the numbers up

Racing

JOHN COBB

For those that did not manage to find the Grand National winner, the bad news is that it is likely to be even harder next year. With only 27 runners going to post and a handicap snip becoming the first favourite to win the race for 14 years, Saturday's race presented the best chance for some time for form students to see their calculations work out. Now, the British Horseracing Board and Aintree

racecourse, concerned that the race attracted the smallest field for 36 years, are to discuss changes to revamp the race in order to make it more competitive.

Of the 27 horses that took part, only nine carried their correct handicap weight, with the rest shouldering 10st even though their abilities justified a less demanding impost.

Possible changes include ensuring that the top-weight carries 12st, rather than the 11st 7lb that Young Hustler humped round this year, and altering the

rule which bars entries officially rated lower than 120 when the weights are published in early-February.

That rating qualification defined a run in this year's race to eight horses, including the subsequent Elder Chase winner, Killleshin.

The idea behind keeping lowly rated horses out of the race is to ensure that the sort of moderate horse that distinguished some previous runnings of the race and that were a danger to themselves and other competitors, are excluded. That

argument seems rather more important than ensuring that the race is a lively medium for bookmakers and punters.

Aintree's clerk of the course,

RICHARD EDMONDSON
NAP: Beldray Park
(Hamilton 3.30)
NB: Royal Silver
(Ludlow 2.15)

Charles Barnett, defended the rating qualification. "The idea of the ratings was to avoid no-hoppers running in the race be-

cause they would probably be the sort of horses that wouldn't be suited to the course. I would rather have 27 good horses than 40 no-hoppers in the race."

Bookmakers William Hill are also looking for changes at Aintree after reporting betting-shop turnover on Grand National day was down by 2%, despite the recent 1% cut in betting duty.

"We believe that part of the

reason for the downturn is the continuing influence of the National Lottery," the firm's Ian Spearing said. "While the small-

er field, the earlier start of the National and the fact that the BBC screened only three races this year were other contributory factors."

It was noticeable that potentially one of the best betting races of the day, the Cordon Bleu Handicap, was relegated to the dead end of the meeting instead of receiving prime-time coverage.

The same firm have tried to claw back some of the money they had hoped to see at Aintree by offering betting on Monday's Irish Grand National.

Son Of War and **Wynde Hide**, who made ignominious departures at Aintree, are 8-1 and 10-1 chances respectively to gain compensation at Fairyhouse, but the favorite, at 3-1, is the Charlie Brooks-trained **Sunny Bay**, who had been extremely impressive at Newbury the previous week. He, along with other British-trained acceptors in Full Of Oats and **Tartan Tyrant**, will take part only if they are granted a soft surface. Final declarations for the race, which is to be shown live on Channel 4, are to be made on Friday.

Richard Dunwoody reported that **STAR RACE** was unsighted by the slow early pace when the six-year-old was a losing favorite at Aintree on Saturday. If today's contest is more strongly run he will be very hard to beat, although the odds look sure to be unattractive. **Dunwoody** looks the main threat.

Johnson prolongs Nicol's Open jinx

Squash

Peter Nicol fell foul of his British Open jinx again yesterday when he lost in the first round in Cardiff. The British national champion, who has failed to win a match in four attempts at the event, was beaten 15-13, 15-12, 3-15, 9-15, 15-13 in 96 minutes by Paul Johnson, the No 7 seed.

Nicol was fancied to complete the double of the closed and open British titles but Johnson had other ideas. The world No 27 won on the same court where Nicol had defeated the great Jansher Khan in 1994.

Successive first-match defeats over the previous three years to Zarah Jahan, Craig Rowland and Julien Bonetot seemed to prey on Nicol's mind from the start. He lacked the incisive and positive approach which normally makes his rallying so forceful. From leading 11-6 in the fifth game, Nicol became so loose and defensive that Johnson was able to force victory in three more hands.

"This is my first win over Peter since he rose into the world top 10, although I used to beat him easily and often as a junior. Perhaps that was in his mind today," Johnson said.

Johnson got the benefit of a dubious decision at 5-3 in the fifth game, but that was balanced out two rallies later when a burst ball which should have been ruled a let was called as a point to Nicol. It was the replacement ball that helped Johnson to victory, however.

"The new ball was livelier and allowed me to pick up rhythm and pace just as Peter seemed to tire," Johnson said.

Johnson will now play Tony Hands, who defeated Ahmed Barada, the world junior champion from Egypt, 15-11 15-13, 15-9, in 54 minutes.

In the women's championship, Cassie Jackman took her revenge against Linda Chapman, who had put her out of the National Championship. Jackman now faces Vicki Cardwell, the 40-year-old former British Open champion, who defeated Meggan Bell.

In the same half of the draw, Fiona Geaves, the eighth seed, beat Jamie Thacker to set up a match against Rebecca Macree, who defeated Donia Leevies.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

7.30 unless stated
EUROPEAN CUP SEMI-FINAL FIRST LEG
AFC BURNLEY v Nantes (2.30)
FC CARLING PREMIERSHIP
Leeds v Southampton (2.30)
ENDS SEMI LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
Stoke v Wolverhampton (2.30)

SECOND DIVISION
Sheffield v Brighton (2.30)
WYcombe v Conference (2.30)
Spalding Cup SEMI-FINAL SECOND LEG
Middlesbrough v Southampton (2.30)
National League (2.30)

ICELAND Premier Division: Iceland v Norway (2.30)
Second Division: Íþróttarfelag Þorlák v Íþróttarfelag Þjóðvarðar (2.30)

WORLD LEAGUE Premier Division: Iceland v Norway (2.30)
Second Division: Íþróttarfelag Þorlák v Íþróttarfelag Þjóðvarðar (2.30)

HEREFORD UNITED COUNTY LEAGUE
Premier Division: Runcorn v Wrexham (2.30)
National League: Hereford v Shrewsbury Town (2.30)
Hednesford v Shropshire (2.30)

PREMIER INDEPENDENCE Northern League: Red Star v Accrington (2.30)
Walsall v Bradford Park Avenue (2.30)
Preston v Hull (2.30), Third Division: Lincoln v Walsall (2.30), Fourth Division: Scarborough v Wigan (2.30)

PONTING LEAGUE First Division: Bolton v Shiffield (2.30); Oldham v Bury (2.30); Macclesfield v Wigan (2.30); Oldham v Bury (2.30); Macclesfield v Wigan (2.30)

SHROPSHIRE STAR SELLING HANDICAP
HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,200, 2m

BIRMINGHAM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 21st

SHROPSHIRE STAR NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 21st

BOVINE FAMILY MEMORIAL HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,500 2m 21st

WYNDHAM STARS HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,500 2m 21st

sport



Drop zone: three from five will go

FEAR OF FALLING: Five Premiership managers are trying to avoid demotion to the Endsleigh League, a decline that dramatically reduces gate receipts, commercial income and TV revenue. **Glenn Moore** reports

There will be moments at Highbury Road this afternoon when Ron Atkinson and Ray Wilkins will catch each other's eye and briefly remember better days chasing trophies at Old Trafford. Then they will turn again to the task in hand, that of lifting their respective teams, Coventry City and Queen's Park Rangers, out of the relegation mine.

Both have been relegated before, Atkinson with Sheffield Wednesday six years ago, Wilkins as a young player with Chelsea in the Seventies, but the impact of those relegations is nothing to what it would be like this time around.

That is because relegation carries a greater penalty than ever before. As the gap grows between the Premiership and the First Division, so does the cost of the drop.

"When we were relegated last year it wiped the thick end of two million pounds off the revenue account," said David Sheepshanks, chairman of Ipswich Town. "Half of that was lost gate receipts, half was commercial income, the Sky TV money and so forth."

The club at Selhurst Park were even worse. "It cost us three million," said Ron Noades, the chairman of Crystal Palace.

The bad news for their counterparts at Coventry and QPR, Manchester City, Southampton and Bolton, the clubs under threat this season, is that the price of failure is about to spiral.

The crux is the Sky TV deal. It has a year to run but an early renegotiation is anticipated. "Expect they will sit down this summer

and the new deal will be worth a 100 to 120 million pounds," said Noades. "That is five million pounds a club. Anyone who goes down this season is kissing goodbye to four million on TV income alone. With gate receipts and other revenue they will be losing five million."

The current Premiership television deal is worth £1.5m per club (the money is merit and appearance-linked). The current Endsleigh deal is worth less than £500,000. The Endsleigh League have already signed a new deal (with Sky) which will push television income to £750,000-£1.2m for First Division clubs next year, as Sheepshanks notes, "it will in no way make up the shortfall with the Premiership."

Ipswich, like all relegated clubs, are cushioned by receiving half the base sum (about £500,000) from the Premiership as well as Endsleigh TV money. But as this expires after two

years, during which the clubs in the Premier League have been getting even richer, an instant return is imperative. Four clubs have bounced straight back in the last two seasons, one of them Crystal Palace two years ago. But of the 10 that failed to do so, only Middlesbrough later got up. Notts County and Swindon even went down again while seven remain in the First Division.

"If you fail to get straight back then you have real problems," Noades said. "You have to decide when you go down if you can afford to keep what you have got. If you can you should be able to go back up. You have to sell players it becomes very hard."

Having kept most of their side in 1993, and gone straight back as champions, Palace sold the bulk of the team last summer. Some players wanted to go out, but Noades, sales were also forced by the bank.

"They reduced our overdraft facility by £3.7m from £6.7m. We had to sell to meet that and to cut wage bills – unless you do you are paying Premiership wages on Endsleigh income. Some of those Premiership clubs must be crapping themselves. Coventry bought two players I could not afford to pay."

Coventry are one of only two clubs never to have been relegated from the top division. At the other extreme, Birmingham and Leicester have gone down nine times with Manchester City in danger of joining them.

For clubs of reasonable, but limited resources, such a yo-yo existence is increasingly likely. "I can see the same three clubs going up and down year after year," Noades said. "The Premiership clubs will be gaining so much income they will be able to cream off anybody of any ability in the lower divisions.

Their squads will get bigger while the quality of lower division players declines. Any club that does go down and keeps its players will go straight back up as long as it is not suffering some kind of internal turmoil."

A look at this year's First Division suggests the trend has already started. It may be open but it is not very good – 16 different clubs, two-thirds of the division, have filled the first three places at some time during the season. In the Premiership only seven clubs have done so. "People say we would not survive if we went up but we would have a different team then," Noades said. "With our new income level we could buy three of four players."

They would need them. If Bolton are relegated it will mean that, of 26 teams promoted since 1987, 15 have been relegated within four

seasons. Ten will have gone straight back down (including six of the eight teams promoted through the play-offs). The only team promoted through the play-offs to have survived more than three seasons is Blackburn, and they spent millions to do so. "All the teams that have come up and been successful have spent money," noted Scott Sellars, who was twice promoted and is now with Bolton. "Blackburn and Newcastle did. Middlesbrough spent enough to keep out of trouble."

Middlesbrough is now with Bolton. "Blackburn and Newcastle did. Middlesbrough spent enough to keep out of trouble."

top division already seem an aeon away.

As a small-town club Ipswich are keenly aware of the need to enable such teams to compete. "We have taken a leading role in trying to persuade the Football League to talk to the Premier League about narrowing the gap," Sheepshanks said. "Otherwise clubs will yo-yo."

"Communities like Stoke, Sunderland, Ipswich and Norwich have good populations and support. Their fans have the right to support their club in the top league if their club gets it right on and off the field. That club should be allowed to be competitive. At present it is not a level playing field. I am all for rewarding success with merit payments and television appearance money, but not at the price of penalising failure. The basic subsidy should cover more than 20 clubs."

"Half the Premiership clubs agree – the bottom half. Those which have flirted with danger themselves."

The thought will certainly cross a few chairmen's minds today, not that they will be able to do anything about it now. At this stage, it is down to the managers, the players and luck.

"Luck plays a part," Atkinson said, "but the most important factor is the mental toughness of your players. Sometimes your hero is someone you never expected it to be. This is a massive game for me and Ray. We will both be hoping we are the one commiserating the other at the end."

THE BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL						
The last five games		How they stand this morning			Remaining fixtures	
		P	W	D	F A Pts GD	
Aston Villa (H) W 5-1; Newcastle (A) L 0-3; Blackburn (H) W 1-0; Leeds (A) L 0-1; QPR (A) L 0-3; Coventry (H) W 1-0	6/15	16	Southampton	34	7 10 17 30 50 31 -20	Today: Man Utd (H); Apr. 17: Newcastle (A); Apr. 27: Bolton (H); May 5: Wimbledon (A)
Wimbledon (A) L 0-3; Man Utd (H) L 2-3; Bolton (A) D 1-1; West Ham (A) L 2-4; Southampton (H) W 2-0	1/15	17	Man City	.....	35 7 10 18 29 56 31 -27	Today: Sheff Wed (H); Apr. 27: Aston Villa (H); May 5: Liverpool (H)
Everton (H) W 5-1; Newcastle (A) L 1-2; Southampton (H) W 3-0; Chelsea (A) D 1-1; Man Utd (H) D 1-1	8/15	18	QPR	.....	35 8 6 21 35 53 30 -18	Today: Coventry (A); Apr. 27: West Ham (H); May 5: Nottingham Forest (A)
Man Utd (A) L 0-1; Liverpool (H) W 1-0; Tottenham (A) L 1-3; Southampton (A) L 0-1; Bolton (H) L 0-2	3/15	19	Coventry	.....	34 6 12 16 39 60 30 -21	Today: QPR (H); Apr. 27: Nottingham Forest (A); Apr. 27: Wimbledon (A); May 5: Leeds (H)
Chelsea (H) W 2-1; Everton (A) L 0-3; Sheff Wed (H) W 2-1; Tottenham (H) L 2-3; Coventry (A) W 2-0	9/15	20	Bolton	.....	35 8 5 22 38 67 29 -29	Today: West Ham (A); Apr. 27: Southampton (H); May 5: Arsenal (A)

Exiled Geordies hold key to Newcastle's fate

Suddenly, exiled Geordies litter Newcastle's path like the ticker-tape which their followers once had on standby to celebrate the championship.

Close on the heels of Alan Shearer and Graham Fenton, the Tynesiders who combined to secure Blackburn's dramatic victory over Kevin Keegan's side on Monday, come another pair of likely lads ready to do down their home-town team.

Brian Little, who brings Aston Villa to St James' Park tomorrow, had a black-and-white striped jersey as a boy and his cousins who are season-ticket holders. Tommy Johnson, whose attacking ability persuaded Little to let Fenton go, joins the Toon Army when he is not playing.

Newcastle, who may start nine points behind Manchester United, suffered another setback in training yesterday when Keith Gillespie twisted an ankle which may prevent his facing Villa. Keegan can be excused for feeling it is time the leaders endured the odd twist of malice fate themselves. His old club Southampton, fighting

for Premiership survival, may just be the team to inflict one.

Both the Saints manager and director of football, Dave Merrington and Lawrie McMenemy respectively, are Geordies, while the captain, Barry Venison, once led Newcastle. Moreover, their need for points is, if anything, more pressing than United's.

If there is to be an upset, Matthew Le Tissier will surely have to be back to his best. The

"Matt's started to do things

in training that give us all hope,"

Beasant said. Southampton also have a dubious FA Cup defeat to avert. Against a team unbroken in 19 games, and reinforced by another Tyne and motion man, Steve Bruce, it is a tall order.

While Villa have taken a

solitary point from five meetings since Newcastle's promotion, two Easter wins suggest Little is countenancing no complacency. Another sub-plot involves Shaka Hislop and Dwight Yorke, friends and colleagues with Trinidad and Tobago, although Keegan will

demand that the heat is on Villa and their stand-in centre-back Ian Taylor.

Two of the five relegation candidates, Coventry and Queen's Park Rangers, tangle at Highfield Road in a battle of wits between Ron Atkinson and the man he may now regard as cover for the side he has dubbed "The Craft," Ray Wilkins.

Wilkins' chairman, Peter Elms, has described the match as

"a 20-pointer". Manchester City, directly above both teams, would probably prefer them to draw. Of City's match with Sheffield Wednesday, Alan Ball said: "We must make sure we don't lose." With fixtures against Villa and Liverpool to finish, they need to win.

Like Wednesday, West Ham have nothing to play for in terms of Europe or safety, which showed in their lethargy at Liverpool on Monday. Bolton's fighting finale may have come too late, but the Hammers will have to be more alert today to stop them departing with honour.

By the time Newcastle step out, neighbouring Wearside could be Premiership territory again. Sunderland will be promoted if won at Sheffield United, the First Division's form side, and Crystal Palace fall to beat Southend. With Howard Kendall lying in wait for his protégé, Peter Reid, Sunderland may have to wait.

Meanwhile, Palace must look to their one-time tenants, Charlton, to loosen Derby's grip on the second automatic promotion place tomorrow.

Rangers set for final lap in title race

Scottish football

Today Rangers go in search of one of three wins which will wrap up their eighth successive Scottish championship. Walter Smith's side face lowly Partick Thistle at Ibrox with a point to prove after Wednesday's 2-0 defeat at Hearts.

Victory would put Rangers seven points clear of Celtic, who face Hibernian at Easter Road tomorrow. Assuming Celtic take full points from their last four games, Rangers need three wins to take the title.

Aily McCoist is rated "such and go" by Smith to face Thistle because of a groin injury, while Gordon Durie is recalled; Ian Ferguson is out – he starts a two-match suspension – but Erik Bo Andersen, Peter van Vossen and Ian Durrant are added to the squad.

At Hibs, Celtic will be without the injured John Hughes but welcome back John Collins, who missed the midweek draw against Kilmarnock.

McCarthy, please

I wanted to be with other supporters sharing a common prayer

Saturday 15th April, 1986 is a date that sticks in the memory. Liverpool versus Nottingham Forest, FA Cup semi-final, Hillsborough, Sheffield. All the way in the table. It is one of the most memorable events of my life. Hereford held a young Darren Peacock and Doncaster a not-so-young Gerry Daly.

Since I hadn't come to support either team I went through the first turnstile I came to. This was a mistake. Inside, I found a cage custom-designed for either orang-utangs or travelling supporters. There was plenty of space but, for the first time, I felt uneasy being behind bars in a football ground.

Beyond this chilly, shady area was sunshine and fence-free terracing and I managed to negotiate a transfer to a sunny spot among the home

supporters. It was announced that the game would kick off at six minutes past three, the time the Liverpool v Forest match was stopped. The players and match officials stopped their warm-up exercises and gathered around the centre circle. A local vicar stood with them, a microphone in his hand, and the Salvation Army lined up on the touchline.

The service began to a congregation of 1,800 brethren of the family of football lovers. It was clear to all that this service was so much more important, so much more necessary than the football we'd paid to watch.

The vicar began. "Last Saturday football supporters gathered together, just as we are gathered here today, to watch a football match. They were ordinary people like you and me..."

I don't recall what he said

as my thoughts were already elsewhere. Those dreadful images flashed across my mind again making me squirm. I thought of the times I'd been in a crush situation: at Stamford Bridge, Upton Park, Old Trafford, Roker Park, Loftus Road and Wembley. I recalled struggling for breath in the urgency to get in to see Chelsea v New York Cosmos. This led me, perhaps irreverently, to thoughts of the display Jolani Cruyff put on and Butch Wilkins brilliant late equaliser. But somehow such footballoing memories seemed inappropriate: the dead of Hillsborough loved their football too.

When the vicar spoke again, I invited him to sing "Abide With Me". Apparently song sheets had been handed out at the turnstiles but I had missed out. The Sally Army struck up and the vicar led the singing. He sang from his heart. The crowd sang from theirs.

When the band stopped playing there was a further 10-second silence. In Hereford Cathedral they would have then sat down in silence; at Hereford United they started applauding. The ground reverberated to the kind of handclapping more likely to be heard in the theatre. But it seemed fitting and was uplifting.

The match was a regular enough affair. Hereford went 2-0 up before Doncaster pulled one back. Their fans celebrated by shaking their inflatable bananas and by climbing up the zoo cage. We all knew the fences had to come down.

FAN'S EYE VIEW

<h

Aldridge in charge at Tranmere

Football

PHIL SHAW

John Aldridge was promoted to the boss class yesterday as Tranmere Rovers, hovering just above the First Division relegation zone, ended the reign of the most successful manager in their history, John King.

The 37-year-old Aldridge, a Republic of Ireland striker whose experience ranges from Newport County through Liverpool to Real Sociedad, becomes player-manager. King, who was in his second spell with Tranmere and will be 58 on Monday, is pondering the offer of a move "upstairs".

It was King who brought Aldridge back to Merseyside from Spain in 1991, since when he has scored 136 goals for Tranmere. The signing was his most inspired during a nine-year sojourn in which Tranmere rose to within a whisker of what is now the Premiership. Three times they lost in the play-offs.

This season, however, Tranmere have struggled and go into today's match with Leicester only four points better off than 22nd-placed Oldham. King, who had two years left on his contract, learned about the change when he was summoned to meet the chairman, Frank Corfe, in the morning.

Aldridge, who will work on a two-year contract, said: "Ideally I'd have liked the circumstances in which I've taken over

to be better, but that's football. The main objective is retain our status. I'll carry on with the existing backroom staff until the end of the season and then decide what moves to make."

King said: "It hasn't really sunk in yet. It takes a lot of accepting but you have got to be big enough in football. I've been offered a consultancy role, but I can't make a sudden decision over my future."

Arsenal have made a fresh bid for Alan Stubbs, the Bolton defender. Bruce Rioch, under whom Stubbs was captain of the Lancashire club, has offered £1m up front with a further £1m based on appearances and caps. Bolton will not respond until their Premiership fate is resolved, but are expected to want a bigger down payment.

Howard Kendall, the Sheffield United manager, has gone public about his interest in signing Ian Rush when the veteran striker leaves Liverpool next month.

Huddersfield Town yesterday terminated the contract of Craig Whittington, the striker who was this week suspended by the Football Association until 1 November after two separate drug tests revealed cannabis use. Whittington, 25, tested positive in March last year, and again in January.

Graeme Head, the Huddersfield chairman, said: "Given the support provided after the first test, the club feel extremely disappointed and badly let down by the player's actions."

Cantona kept out in the cold by France

Eric Cantona is unlikely to play for France in this summer's European Championships in England despite being praised by the French national coach, Aimé Jacquet, for his current performances.

Cantona has been in superb form recently, scoring seven goals in his last eight games for Manchester United in their rise to the top of the Premiership table, but Jacquet told the French sports daily *L'Equipe* he had no reason to change his mind about calling him up.

Jacquet, careful not to alienate Cantona, left the door slightly ajar in case injuries prompted him to fall back on the player he once appointed team captain but his statements left little room for doubt.

Jacquet, who has not spoken

to Cantona or his club manager, Alex Ferguson, for three months, said he had already made his decision on Cantona. "I have already said that his presence would force me to change everything and that it is not the right time," he said.

Jacquet said Cantona was successful as a goalscorer in England because he enjoyed a freedom he would not get in international competition. "I know how to use Eric—as a playmaker and not as a striker," he said.

Cantona won the last of his 45 caps for France, who are unbeaten in 20 matches, in January last year but he lost his place when he was suspended after his assault on a Crystal Palace fan at Selhurst Park later that month.

McCarthy pleads innocence

Mick McCarthy, the Republic of Ireland manager, yesterday claimed that he was an innocent victim of last season's FA Cup final ticket scandal.

Two Norwegian fans paid £350 each for £60 tickets for the match between Manchester United and Everton last May and these were traced back to McCarthy as part of his allocation of four from Millwall where he was then the manager.

This led to the FA yesterday banning him from receiving Cup final tickets for 10 years after speaking in Dublin yester-

day, McCarthy pleaded his innocence. "I gave these four tickets to a well-respected friend of mine at face value and he informed me that he had attended the game with another friend and their respective sons. I believed him," McCarthy said.

"The problem is that I didn't hold on to the four ticket stubs. Even if I had given the tickets to Mother Teresa, I wouldn't have got off with it," he added.

"If this whole business stamps out ticket touting, I will be very happy. I deplore ticket touting—I always have and I always will," McCarthy said.

Their coach, Andy Goodway, has not gone quite so far as to

Sampras puts pressure on Muster

Tennis

Pete Sampras recovered from losing the first set to beat David Prinosil of Germany, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 and reach the semi-finals of the Hong Kong Open yesterday.

The American world No 2 had difficulty containing the aggressive serve-and-volley tactics of the eighth seed, but raised his game in the closing stages to maintain the pressure on Thomas Muster for the world No 1 ranking.

Sampras—who trails Muster by only 72 points in the rankings—admitted: "I did not really think I was in control of the match at any time. I had a lot of break points in the first set—but did not convert them."

The other semi-final will be between Michael Chang, the holder, and the unseeded Australian Todd Woodbridge.

Meanwhile Muster reached the semi-final of the Estoril clay-court event in Lisbon after a 6-4, 6-2 win over Spain's Francisco Clavet. The Austrian has yet to drop a set in the tournament.

Amiss backing Botham

Cricket

Dennis Amiss, the Warwickshire chief executive, yesterday added his voice to the calls for Ian Botham to be brought into the England set-up to kick-start the national side's flagging fortunes.

The former England batsman joined Derbyshire and Northamptonshire officials—who have nominated Botham to be a selector—in pressing for the great all-rounder to be involved in the international scene.

The Test and County Cricket Board has decided to take no action against the Derbyshire and England fast bowler Devon Malcolm for the series of controversial newspaper articles which appeared towards the end of England's recent tour of South Africa in which Malcolm raised the issue of racism and also criticised the tour manager, Raymond Illingworth.

Malcolm, who returned home early after an unhappy couple of months, was in breach of his contract with the board in giving the playing to England.

The TCCB said: "The Board accepts that Devon Malcolm's motive in giving the interviews was not financial. He has satisfied the Board that, after payment of all expenses, he has not profited financially from the interviews."

"The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

The Test and County Cricket Board has decided to take no action against the Derbyshire and England fast bowler Devon Malcolm for the series of controversial newspaper articles which appeared towards the end of England's recent tour of South Africa in which Malcolm raised the issue of racism and also criticised the tour manager, Raymond Illingworth.

Malcolm, who returned home early after an unhappy couple of months, was in breach of his contract with the board in giving the playing to England.

The TCCB said: "The Board accepts that Devon Malcolm's motive in giving the interviews was not financial. He has satisfied the Board that, after payment of all expenses, he has not profited financially from the interviews."

"The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

The TCCB said: "The Board accepts that Devon Malcolm's motive in giving the interviews was not financial. He has satisfied the Board that, after payment of all expenses, he has not profited financially from the interviews."

"The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

Speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, Amiss said: "I believe Botham has got to be involved. He was such a great player and he has his heart in the right place."

"Even if he wasn't able to be a selector, his sheer presence would be a huge benefit to the England players. I've never seen an England team lacking so much confidence as the one at the end of the South Africa tour and in the World Cup. They are good players, but they need to have their confidence restored."

The Board has decided not to take the matter further, in particular not to institute disciplinary proceedings... He remains eligible for selection for England in future." Devon Malcolm remains totally committed to playing for England."

SPORT



THE INDEPENDENT • SATURDAY 13 APRIL 1996

THREE FROM FIVE MUST GO

The relegation dog-fight 26

In Monday's
24-page
sports
section

RFU gives in to demands of the clubs

Rugby Union

STEVE BALE

English rugby union's governing body last night as good as capitulated to the leading clubs who have been threatening to secede after a day-long emergency session of the Rugby Football Union's full committee at the London Hilton.

In accordance with the wishes of the clubs, Bill Bishop, the RFU president, was drafted into the negotiating team - though still under the nominal chairmanship of Cliff Brittle, the highly contentious RFU executive committee chairman. "We wish the negotiations to continue as speedily as possible," Tony Hallatt, the RFU secretary, said.

Far more significant is that the RFU has agreed on virtually all of the 12 negotiating positions put to it by the clubs, leaving control of the game itself as the only outstanding issue. It is impossible to believe the clubs will not agree to compromise on this especially as it now appears they will receive all the monies from the competitions in which they participate.

The pressure on the RFU increased when it became clear that England's First Division players, who will be the new professionals whoever is in charge,

were ready to side with the clubs rather than the RFU.

This week the clubs' response to the RFU's outright refusal to cede any of its administrative or financial powers over the professional game provoked the clubs into announcing a boycott of next season's RFU league and cup competitions in order to play in their own. A declaration of full-scale independence would have been their next step.

As the RFU's full committee was gathered yesterday, the Bath captain, Phil de Glanville, one of those dealing personally with the warning parties on behalf of the piggies-in-the-middle, pleaded for an accommodation. Lawrence Dallaglio and Paul Johnson, captains of Wasps and Orrell, have also been involved.

"Having looked at the two positions and talked to both sides, we know there's a lot of common ground and a negotiated settlement is feasible," De Glanville said. "But there needs to be a lot of give from both and at the moment there is very little from either."

"If the worst came to the worst, I can't say what every individual player in the First Division would decide but, though we won't say this in public, we have made it very clear to the parties what our position would be if a breakaway occurred."

On Thursday English

Professional Rugby Union Clubs claimed they had the players' support and it does appear that if it came to a straight choice the majority would go with Epruc provided the clubs produce the financial packages they claim will be available.

The RFU has the England team - the official version - but the intermittence of international rugby compares unfavourably in career terms with club rugby and the vast majority of First Division players do not play for England and so have no access to international pay-outs.

De Glanville made it clear that the clubs' fixture structure - a two-tier European competition supported by a 24-team Anglo-Welsh league and 12-team English Conference - would be preferable to the union's with its smaller European involvement and insistence on the intrusion of divisional rugby.

"We're not going to be publicly drawn on one side or the other. To have to choose between club and country is not a position we should ever be put in," De Glanville said. "What is very worrying for the players is that a lot of them have to make career decisions about next season and for them it's a nightmare scenario."

Supercharged Super-12, Previews, page 24



Photograph: Stephen Munday/Allsport

Great White Shark casts large shadow over field

Golf

TIM GLOVER
reports from Augusta

When Bobby Jones, the moving spirit behind Augusta National, first set eyes on Jack Nicklaus he remarked that he played a game with which he was not familiar. There were many here echoing similar sentiments about Greg Norman following his blazing start in the 60th Masters. While the Great White Shark was basking in the warm glow of a record-equalling 63, lesser mortals were lost in his wake.

Sam Torrance, the No 2 to Colin Montgomerie on the European Tour last year, and Gordon Sterry, the amateur champion, parted company from the tournament, and from each other, yesterday. Torrance, who had an 80 in the first round, needed a score of Norman proportions to survive the half-way cut and although he improved considerably with a 71, it was not enough.

At seven over par for the championship, Torrance headed for the airport. "Every cloud has a silver lining," Torrance said. "I'll be able to watch the tournament at home with my wife and kids." The 23-year-old Sterry added a 77 to a 78 for an aggregate of 155, 11 over par and the first thing he did after signing his score card was to sign a contract to turn professional.

"This was the worst experience of my life," Sterry said, "but in the long run I'm sure it will be of great benefit to me." He will make his debut as a professional on Friday.

Meantime, Norman appears to have taken a leaf out of the book of the Sri Lankan openers in his approach this year to the Masters. He has been a notoriously slow starter at Augusta National and traditionally reserves his best for a final-round charge.

On Thursday his 63 matched the record set by Nick Price in the third round 10 years ago.

"I'll be able to reflect on this for many years to come," Norman said. But only if he wears the Green Jacket on Sunday

evening. The 41-year-old Norman, playing in his 16th Masters, failed to break par in the first round of seven of his previous nine appearances. His nine birdies from the seventh hole gave him a two-stroke lead over the left-hander Phil Mickelson and both had glorious back nine, coming home in 30, one shot off the record achieved by Mark Calcavecchia in 1992.

Norman, who has finished in the top six in the Masters on seven occasions, said: "You just try to keep the momentum going that's within you. I'm excited but I'm not going to let it get away from me." Norman has won the Open Championship twice but has never landed a major in the United States despite being the world No 1. No one has ever shot lower than 63 in any of the four majors and Norman is the only player to do it in two of them. His other 63 came in the second round of the 1986 Open at Turnberry.

Putting is the key to winning the Masters and Norman had only 27 putts in the first round, nine below regulation. "When you get into the kind of roll that I was in it feels very comfortable," he said. "Hey, let it happen. Let the reins of the horse go and let him run as fast as he wants." In an attempt to pull in the reins, the tournament committee thought long and hard about the pin positions for the second round yesterday. The speed of the greens and the placing of the flags are the only two defences the course has against a major assault. They will not want to see the Masters won with

an overwhelming score and short of placing the flagsticks in the middle of the bunkers or lakes they came up with some fiendish placements yesterday.

Some, including Tom Watson, would argue that the position of the flags in the first round was tricky enough. At the par-three 16th, David Gilford, in an otherwise exemplary round, had four putts and that was one fewer than Watson. He took six at the hole in a round of 75, three over par, and yesterday he was making progress until he had a six at the 15th.

Corey Pavin also had a 75 in the first round but yesterday proved that, devilish pin positions or not, the course was eminently playable. Pavin shot 66 to move from three over to three under. The field is paired to 44 plus ties after the second round, those within 10 shots of the lead also making the cut. With a 67 or less, Norman would break Raymond Floyd's 36-hole tournament record of 13 under 131 set in 1976. Under the 10-shot rule players would have to score at least a four-under-par aggregate of 140 to make the cut and avoid a lost weekend.

Putting is the key to winning the Masters and Norman had only 27 putts in the first round, nine below regulation. "When you get into the kind of roll that I was in it feels very comfortable," he said. "Hey, let it happen. Let the reins of the horse go and let him run as fast as he wants." In an attempt to pull in the reins, the tournament committee thought long and hard about the pin positions for the second round yesterday. The speed of the greens and the placing of the flags are the only two defences the course has against a major assault. They will not want to see the Masters won with

a 67 or less.

Norman would break

Raymond Floyd's 36-hole tourna-

ment record of 13 under 131 set in 1976. Under the 10-shot rule players would have to score at least a four-under-par ag-

gregate of 140 to make the cut and avoid a lost weekend.

Putting is the key to winning

the Masters and Norman had

only 27 putts in the first round,

nine below regulation. "When

you get into the kind of roll that

I was in it feels very comfor-

table," he said. "Hey, let it hap-

pen. Let the reins of the horse

go and let him run as fast as he

wants." In an attempt to pull

in the reins, the tournament

committee thought long and hard

about the pin positions for the

second round yesterday. The

speed of the greens and the plac-

ing of the flags are the only two

defences the course has against

a major assault. They will not

want to see the Masters won with

a 67 or less.

Norman would break

Raymond Floyd's 36-hole tourna-

ment record of 13 under 131 set in 1976. Under the 10-shot rule players would have to score at least a four-under-par ag-

gregate of 140 to make the cut and avoid a lost weekend.

Putting is the key to winning

the Masters and Norman had

only 27 putts in the first round,

nine below regulation. "When

you get into the kind of roll that

I was in it feels very comfor-

table," he said. "Hey, let it hap-

pen. Let the reins of the horse

go and let him run as fast as he

wants." In an attempt to pull

in the reins, the tournament

committee thought long and hard

about the pin positions for the

second round yesterday. The

speed of the greens and the plac-

ing of the flags are the only two

defences the course has against

a major assault. They will not

want to see the Masters won with

a 67 or less.

Norman would break

Raymond Floyd's 36-hole tourna-

ment record of 13 under 131 set in 1976. Under the 10-shot rule players would have to score at least a four-under-par ag-

gregate of 140 to make the cut and avoid a lost weekend.

Putting is the key to winning

the Masters and Norman had

only 27 putts in the first round,

nine below regulation. "When

you get into the kind of roll that

I was in it feels very comfor-

table," he said. "Hey, let it hap-

pen. Let the reins of the horse

go and let him run as fast as he

wants." In an attempt to pull

in the reins, the tournament

committee thought long and hard

about the pin positions for the

second round yesterday. The

speed of the greens and the plac-

ing of the flags are the only two

defences the course has against

a major assault. They will not

want to see the Masters won with

a 67 or less.

Norman would break

Raymond Floyd's 36-hole tourna-

ment record of 13 under 131 set in 1976. Under the 10-shot rule players would have to score at least a four-under-par ag-

gregate of 140 to make the cut and avoid a lost weekend.

Putting is the key to winning

the Masters and Norman had

only 27 putts in the first round,

nine below regulation. "When

you get into the kind of roll that

I was in it feels very comfor-

table," he said. "Hey, let it hap-

pen. Let the reins of the horse

go and let him run as fast as he

wants." In an attempt to pull

in the reins, the tournament

committee thought long and hard

about the pin positions for the

second round yesterday. The

speed of the greens and the plac-

ing of the flags are the only two

defences the course has against

a major assault. They will not

want to see the Masters won with

a 67 or less.

Norman would break

Raymond Floyd's 36-hole tourna-

ment record of 13 under 131 set in 1976. Under the 10-shot rule players would have to score at least a four-under-par ag-

gregate of 140 to make the cut and avoid a